

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR APRIL 27, 2012

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Employee News** – I am pleased to announce that Brian Olson, currently the Director of Public Works for the City of Ramsey, Minn., will join our team to become our new Director of Public Works. Brian's first day will be May 29.
- 2. Southdale Development Agreement** – The City received the final executable electronic copy of the redevelopment agreement and the signature pages of the agreement this week. I spoke with representatives from both Metro Transit and Simon Property Group this week. They plan to meet next week to discuss the public transit easement agreement.
- 3. 6500 France Redevelopment Proposal** – The Planning Commission considered and rejected a proposal this week to redevelop 6500 France. The developer has informed staff that he does not plan to advance his proposal to the City Council for consideration. Instead, the developer is working with staff on ideas to redesign the proposal based on the feedback he received from the Planning Commission.
- 4. Edinborough Park Recommendation** – City staff are developing a recommendation on the future of Edinborough Park for consideration by the Park Board at its May 8 meeting. We plan to present the staff recommendation and the Park Board's reaction to that recommendation to the City Council at either the June 5 or 19 Council meeting.
- 5. Cable Television Franchise** – Council Member Swenson and I attended a meeting of the Southwest Cable Commission this week to represent the City on the Commission's Board of Directors. Commission legal staff informed us that the franchise renewal discussions with Comcast are nearly completed and that an action to approve the new franchise renewal will likely be needed at the Council's June 19 meeting.
- 6. Dedication Event** – There will be an event here at City Hall on Tuesday, May 1 at 8 a.m. to formally dedicate the landscaping project that was started last year in honor of the Chamber of Commerce's 40th Anniversary. The ground-breaking ceremony for the project was held last fall. Flowers and shovels will be provided. Please feel welcome to join in on the planting festivities.
- 7. City Facility WiFi Project** – Our original plan was to bring this project to the Council for approval at the May 1 Council meeting. We are still working out some of the details of the system design. We are postponing the Council's consideration of the project until the May 15 meeting.
- 8. Fire Training Tower Project** – The member cities of the South Metro Public Safety Training Facility Joint Power Authority each contributed funds last year to a major improvement project at the training center. The project added a sixth-floor burner to the existing fire tower to improve our Fire personnel's training experience fighting tall structure fires. The project budget was \$549,000. The City of Edina contributed \$132,000 to the project budget. The completed project cost was \$535,482. The unspent project budget revenue of

\$13,517 will be retained by the training center and used for future fire training related capital projects.

9. **Taste of Edina** – The Chamber of Commerce’s annual Taste of Edina event will be Thursday, May 17 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Centennial Lakes Park.

10. **Speaking Engagements** – Hennepin County Commissioner Jan Callison and I spoke to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute group April 26 at the Southdale-Hennepin Area Library on the future of the west metro area. Previous City of Edina speakers to this group have included Mayor Hovland, Council Member Swenson, Police Chief Jeff Long, City Engineer Wayne Houle and Parks & Recreation Director John Keprios. I will speak on the subject of city manager intern development at the 2012 annual conference of the Minnesota City Management Association May 4. On May 11, I will be part of a panel discussion session on the subject of “How to work effectively with municipalities” for a conference sponsored by the Minnesota Real Estate Journal.

11. **Chamber President Search Process** – Chamber President Arrie Larson Manti will leave her position this summer. The Chamber Board of Directors has been involved in a search process to select a new president. School Superintendent Ric Dressen and I will interview finalists for the position on May 10. The Board hopes to announce a selection decision before the end of May.

12. **MLC Board Meeting** – The City of Edina will host the Board of Directors meeting of the Municipal Legislative Commission on Monday, May 7 at 11:30 a.m. at the Hughes Pavilion at Centennial Lakes Park. Council Members are welcome to join the group that day. Please RSVP through Susan Howl.