

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2012
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR JUNE 29, 2012

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Planning and Project Updates** – Jerry’s Foods plans to remodel the front entrance of the store. The new plans include the removal of the revolving door, which will be replaced with a new standard entry. Though it was a difficult decision for Jerry’s to make, the revolving door caused a lot of maintenance and cost issues.

On June 13, the Planning Commission approved a variance for an addition at Eden Avenue Grill. The addition will be a four-season porch with a retractable roof, to be located over the existing patio area on the south side of the building. Eden Avenue Grill will begin construction on this project soon. On June 27, the Planning Commission will consider a Planned Unit Development application to tear down the office buildings at 6500 France and 4005 West 65th Street (property kitty-corner from Fairview Southdale Hospital) and build a new six-story, 102,000-square-foot medical office building with retail on the first level. A detached parking structure is proposed on the west side of the building. The City Council will likely consider the application at its July 17 meeting. The building is proposed to be constructed in two phases. The first phase would include construction of a four-story, 70,000-square-foot building.

On June 27, the Planning Commission will also review a sketch plan for a proposed redevelopment of property on West 49th Street, just west of Highway 100, behind the Holiday Stationsore. The applicant is proposing a 60-unit, four-story senior housing development. A Comprehensive Plan amendment would be required to re-guide the site as “high-density residential.” The City Council will likely consider the Sketch Plan at its July 17 meeting.

- 2. Honors for CTS Employees** – The Communications & Technology Services Department received two awards June 7 from the National Association of Government Communicators. In the “internal newsletter” category, City Slick received a Blue Pencil Award (first place). The U.S. Navy’s Military Sealift Command placed second. In the “media event” category, Halloween 16 received an Award of Excellence (third place). The Department of Labor (DOL) placed first for its DOL Hall of Fame Event and the U.S. Census Bureau placed second for its 2010 Census Center of Population.

Communications Coordinator Jordan Gilgenbach was named the Edina Chamber of Commerce’s “Ambassador of the Month” for June. The Edina Chamber of Commerce’s Ambassadors Group welcomes new members to the Chamber and serves as mentors to help them become more involved in the Chamber.

- 3. New Population Estimate** – The Metropolitan Council prepares populations estimates of cities within the seven county MSA on or about April 1 of each year. The 2011 estimated population of Edina is 48,262. This estimate is based on a total housing stock of 22,621 (up from 22,560 in April 2010) and an estimated population density of 2.3 persons per unit.

4. **New Street Maps** – Our new 2012-2013 City street maps have been delivered! As we gear up for Edina’s quasiquicentennial celebration, the new map includes a historical route within Edina for those interesting in viewing historic sites of our community. Special thanks to the Edina Historical Society for helping with that part of the project. We have about 75 unfolded maps, too. If Council Members would like a new map, please connect with Susan Howl. For residents or visitors who want multiple copies of the maps, our past practice has been to give the first one away for free, then charge 50 cents for each additional copy. Copies will also be made available free of charge at several other places in the community, such as the Edina Chamber of Commerce, Fairview Southdale Hospital and area hotels.
5. **Recycling Contract** – The Council is scheduled to consider the award of the residential curbside recycling contract at its Aug. 6 meeting. Since the Council tabled action on the action June 19, staff have been preparing additional analysis of the proposals we received in response to the RFP. Additionally, I have asked the Recycling & Solid Waste Working Group (RSWG) of the Energy & Environment Commission (EEC) to review the staff analysis prior to advancing it to the EEC for a review and recommendation at its July 12 meeting. When the contract advances to the Council’s Aug. 6 meeting, Council will have the staff analysis, RSWG review and EEC recommendation to assist you in making this important decision.
6. **Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Organizational Meeting** – A group of interested residents and volunteers from the cities of Edina, Wayzata, Excelsior, Minnetonka, Hopkins and St. Louis Park met at the Edina Senior Center last night to receive a presentation from a representative of the Minnesota Army National Guard on the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program. The program seeks to provide an organizational structure to voluntary efforts in communities to provide support and assistance to the families of military personnel, particularly for families whose loved ones are deployed active military. The group decided to move the initiative forward and form an organization that will operate as a six-city coalition. Council Member Brindle was selected as one of the co-chairs of the group.
7. **Hornets’ Nest Project** – The Hornets’ Nest Project continues to move forward toward its July 17 date with the City Council. Staff spent considerable time this working out the details of the relationship between the City and the school district for use of the new locker room space. We negotiated a tentative agreement that will be formatted similar to the facility use agreement already in existence between the two entities for the gymnasiums at the Community Center. Potential tenants for the proposed commercial spaces in the project will be interviewed and their proposals are analyzed next week. Bid packages for the project will be available on Monday, July 2.
8. **Gallagher Drive Variance** – The MnDOT Variance Committee considered and granted the City’s request for a standards variance for the Gallagher Drive Project.
9. **Holiday Schedule** – City offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 4 for the holiday. Also, just a reminder that there is no City Council meeting July 3. The next City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, July 17.