



Edition:Edina

MAY 2021

Volume 8, Issue 5

CITY GOALS:



Strong Foundation



Reliable Service



Livable City



Better Together

City Works to Renounce Racial Covenants from Public Properties

Edina to Join Just Deeds Project to Help Property Owners with Similar Work

In the past, discriminatory covenants were used to keep people of color from buying houses in certain Minnesota neighborhoods. The covenants resulted in segregated communities and adverse effects on people of color, including a lack of access to quality education, policing, parks and public transportation.

In 1948, the Supreme Court ruled that covenants were unenforceable. By 1953, the Minnesota Legislature prohibited the use of racial restrictions in warranty deeds. But covenants remained commonplace in much of the nation until 1968, when the federal Fair Housing Act made them explicitly illegal. Even after they were illegal, for a long time, there was no way to renounce the language from property titles.

Minnesota law now allows property owners to discharge shameful and discriminatory language from property titles. According to the University of

Minnesota project Mapping Prejudice, approximately 2,800 residential properties in Edina have racially restrictive covenants in their deeds. Several City-owned properties have them, too.

To demonstrate that Edina is welcoming to all and working toward systemic changes for equitable outcomes, the City is working to discharge covenants on its properties and encourages residents to do the same.

- Check the Mapping Prejudice tool at bit.ly/EdinaRacialCovenants to see if a covenant was found on your deed.
- If a restrictive covenant exists on your property, hire your title company to discharge it from your property deed. Note that fees vary.

The City is joining the Just Deeds Project to help homeowners who need free legal and title services to do this work.



To date, 10 other Minnesota cities are part of the project, including Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, New Hope, Crystal, Minnetonka, Minneapolis, Hopkins, Rochester, St. Louis Park and Richfield. Since its founding, the Just Deeds Project has discharged 101 covenants for free.

To keep up to date on the work to remove racial covenants in Edina, sign up for Race & Equity Advancement emails under "City Government" at EdinaMN.gov/CityExtra. If you are interested in free services to renounce a restrictive covenant from your property, fill out the Just Deeds form at EdinaMN.gov/RenouncingCovenants. For more information on the Just Deeds Project, visit www.justdeeds.org.

– COMPILED BY JENNIFER BENNEROTTE

Two New Commissioners Use Expertise to Represent Edina Regionally

Chris LaTondresse and James Lawrence Begin Terms



Chris LaTondresse



James Lawrence

public servant who has spent time at the local, national and international levels.

Among his current roles on the Hennepin County Board, LaTondresse currently serves as Chair of the Housing & Redevelopment Authority, Vice-Chair of the Regional Railroad Authority and Vice-Chair of Public Safety.

A pair of experienced leaders took over influential regional posts this year, as Chris LaTondresse was elected Hennepin County District 6 Commissioner and James Lawrence was appointed Metropolitan Airports District C Commissioner.

LaTondresse, a Hopkins native and resident, was elected in November. He is a veteran

Lawrence brings a wealth of corporate leadership experience to the regional airport authority as a member of the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC). An executive and board member for several international aviation companies, Lawrence stresses the importance of maintaining Delta Air Lines' hub at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP).

A resident of south Minneapolis in one of the MSP primary flight paths, Lawrence is attuned to the noise issues that Edinans may face. He hopes to maintain the policies of the MAC while helping shape MSP's response as air travel and commerce recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both LaTondresse and Lawrence will each represent Edina and other West Metro communities for four years.

LaTondresse can be reached at Chris.LaTondresse@hennepin.us or 612-348-7886. Lawrence can be reached at James.Lawrence@mspmac.org or 612-726-8191.

– COMPILED BY DAN REISIG

City Works to Develop First Climate Action Plan

Residents Encouraged to Participate Through Survey

BY KAITLIN GAULT

On April 5, the Twin Cities set a record high for that date at a scorching 83 degrees. While the hot day was a welcome change for many after the frigid winter, the uncharacteristically high temperature signals a changing climate.

To address the challenge of climate change, the City of Edina is developing its first Climate Action Plan.

The plan will help those who live and work in Edina imagine and achieve a future where the Earth and all who live on it thrive.

A team of community representatives, members of the Energy & Environment Commission (EEC) and City staff will work on the plan throughout 2021. The work is facilitated by consultant paleBLUEdot.

Energy & Environment Commission Chair Hilda Martinez outlined how the commission's involvement will assist with the outcome of the plan.

"The involvement of the EEC will give the commission the opportunity to identify, prioritize and review the different actions and strategies that would be part of the plan," she said. "Commission participation can also help bring the community perspective to the process."

The City's current goals are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions citywide 30 percent by 2025 and 80 percent by 2050 and to establish actions to enhance community

resilience and adaptation to climate change.

Sustainability Coordinator Grace Hancock believes creating the plan now is critical.

"Developing the plan now will provide a clear pathway to reassess and meet our goals," she said. "We have had goals in place in the past, but we haven't had actionable steps to get us there."

She also emphasized how climate change impacts almost everything people love about living and working in Edina.

"The climate in Minnesota is already different, and we are expecting warmer, wetter and more unpredictable weather," Hancock said. "This affects our lakes and waterways, trees and green space, and all the plants and animals that call Minnesota home. As a metropolis, we are also at greater risk for flooding with increased precipitation and the urban heat island effect. This effect means cities are getting hotter faster than surrounding areas because we have so much asphalt that absorbs the heat and activities by those who live close. We need to work together so Edina can thrive."

Those who live and work in Edina are encouraged to complete a short survey before June 6 at BetterTogetherEdina.org/climate-action-plan to share how they experience nature in Edina and any concerns they have for the future. To complete the survey over the phone, contact Hancock at 952-826-1621. Surveys in Spanish and Somali can be downloaded from BetterTogetherEdina.org or mailed upon request.

Developing the plan with community input is important to all working behind the scenes to ensure equity is at the forefront.

"Climate change is not experienced equally across all residents and work groups," Hancock said. "People with lower incomes who can't afford to flood-proof their home or pay higher energy bills due to less predictable temperatures are more at risk to the effects of climate change. We want to include those community members' perspectives in the plan itself and that's why we are taking a community-forward approach to the plan."

Martinez reiterated the importance of engaging the community during the plan's development.

"The engagement of all members of the community is key in the development of the plan, since the actions/policies that would be implemented as part of it would have impacts on the way the community lives and the businesses operate," she said. "It is vital that they are part of the process from the beginning, and that we continue to hear their input throughout the whole process."

The City's Energy & Environment Commission anticipates recommending a completed Climate Action Plan to the City Council in December. Implementation of the plan is expected to begin in early 2022.

For more information on the Climate Action Plan or the survey, contact Hancock at 952-826-1621 or visit BetterTogetherEdina.org.

BY THE NUMBERS

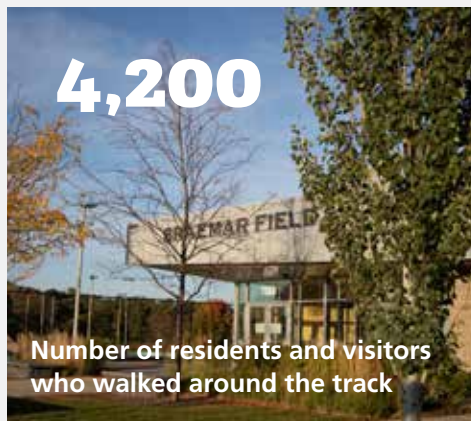
Winter at Braemar Field

When COVID-19 cases spiked in Minnesota this winter, sports and indoor activities were put on pause. The pandemic forced Braemar Field to close Nov. 21, 2020 to Jan. 3, 2021, but the City of Edina worked to develop protocols for successfully reopening it for organized youth practices, open soccer and walking on the indoor track.



6

Number of sports played on the field



4,200

Number of residents and visitors who walked around the track

39 Number of organizations that rented the field

84,000 Weight in pounds of the dome fabric

7 million Number of cubic feet of air inside the dome

\$196,610 Revenue generated from field rentals

– COMPILED BY KAITLIN GAULT

City of Edina Advisory Boards & Commissions

More than 100 residents volunteer to serve on the City's 10 advisory boards and commissions, which advise the City Council on various projects and sometimes make recommendations for its consideration. Except for the Board of Appeal & Equalization and Construction Board of Appeals, each body includes student members who are typically high school juniors or seniors.

Below are the City's boards and commissions, along with their typical meeting times and members.

For more information on the City's boards and commissions, contact Community Engagement Coordinator MJ Lamon, 952-826-0360 or MLamon@EdinaMN.gov, or visit bit.ly/EdinaBoardsCommissions. 

Arts & Culture Commission

4:30 p.m. fourth Thursday of the month

Susan Chandler	Tiffany Shen*
Lindsay DiLorenzo	Rebecca Sorensen, Chair
Alyssa Fram	Brian Stemmler
Susan Johnson	Steve Suckow
Shreya Konkimalla*	Laura Westlund
Lauren Piela*	
Russ Rubin	

Board of Appeal & Equalization

Meets twice in April of each year

Andrew Ayers	Edward Cracraft
Rhonda Bland	Michael McCauley
Philip Buckvold	

Community Health Commission

6:30 p.m. second Monday of the month

Mary Absolon	Robert Loesch
Eva DeSimone*	Ellie Mullen*
Andrew Hawkins	Tracy Nelson
Amanda Herr	Julia Selley
Isadora Li*	Michael Wood
Philip King-Lowe	Gregory Wright

Construction Board of Appeals

Meets as necessary

Brian Berube	Aaron Ouska
Wayne Dvorak	Austin Wagner
Ryan Holten	

Energy & Environment Commission

7 p.m. second Thursday of the month

Ukasha Dakane	Peter Mans*
John Haugen	Ana Martinez*
Teri Hovanac	Hilda Martinez, Chair
Michelle Horan	Rajeev Ratan
Bayardo Lanzas	Tom Tessman
Cory Lukens	

Heritage Preservation Commission

7 p.m. second Tuesday of the month

Robert Cundy	Arjun Maheshwari*
Thomas Everson	Sarah Nymo
Mark Hassenstab	Rachel Pollock
Garrett Knudsen	Annie Schilling, Chair
Mike Lee*	Darrah Widmoyer
Jane Lonquist	

Human Rights & Relations Commission

7 p.m. fourth Tuesday of the month

Joni Bennett	Francesca Lichtenberger*
Magnus Borene*	Sabeehudeen Mirza*
Cindy Edwards	Richard Ross
Michael Epstein, Chair	Mamie Segall
Mark Felton	Jasmine Brett Stringer
Leticia Guadarrama	Moore
Fartun Ismail	

Parks & Recreation Commission

7 p.m. second Tuesday of the month

Matthew Doscotch	Michael Miller
Greg Good	Nick Mork*
Brian Haas	Will Nahlovsky*
Eileen McAuley	Jack Sorem*
Koren Hawk Nelson	Julie Strother
Rick Ites, Chair	Patrick Willette

Planning Commission

7 p.m. second and fourth Wednesdays of the month

Kate Agnew	Sophie Cullen*
David Alkire	Louis Miranda
Rachel Bartling	Ian Nemerov, Chair
James Bennett	Joann Olsen
Sheila Berube	Gerard Strauss

Transportation Commission

6 p.m. third Thursday of the month

Melinda Ahler	Anand Khariwala*
Nihar Atri*	Peter Lafferty
Chris Brown	Andy Lewis
Anna Clark*	Bruce McCarthy
Kirk Johnson, Chair	Jill Plumb-Smith
Aboubekrine Kane	Lori Richman

*Student Commissioner



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1-28

Step To It Challenge

The Step To It Challenge is a free four-week physical activity challenge that motivates people of all ages and abilities to become more physically active. Visit StepToIt.org to sign up.

Tuesday, May 4, 7 p.m.

City Council meeting

Wednesday, May 5, 5:30 p.m.

Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting

Friday, May 7, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and

Saturday, May 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Edina Garden Council Plant Sale, 6421 Indian Hills Road and 7013 Comanche Court

Wednesday, May 12, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission meeting

Thursday, May 13

Eid al Fitr; No City meetings

Friday, May 14, 7:30 a.m.

Housing & Redevelopment Authority meeting

Tuesday, May 18, 7 p.m.

City Council meeting

Saturday, May 22, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and

Sunday, May 23, noon-4 p.m.

Buckthorn Dump, 7420 Braemar Blvd.

Wednesday, May 26, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission meeting

Thursday, May 27, 7:30 a.m.

Housing & Redevelopment Authority meeting

Monday, May 31

Memorial Day; City offices closed

For a complete listing of meetings and events, visit EdinaMN.gov.

Watch City Council, Housing & Redevelopment Authority and Planning Commission meetings live:

- Edina TV (Comcast Channels 813 or 16)
- [Facebook.com/EdinaMN](https://www.facebook.com/EdinaMN)
- "Watch a Meeting" web page at EdinaMN.gov/LiveMeetings

Watch other meetings live at [youtube.com/EdinaTV](https://www.youtube.com/EdinaTV).

Putting Course Opens 10 a.m. May 1!



CENTENNIAL LAKES PARK



7499 France Ave. S. • CentennialLakesPark.com

CITY OF EDINA
4801 WEST 50TH STREET
EDINA, MN 55424

PRESORT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
Permit No. 3932

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON
CAR-RT-WS



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soomaali
EdinaMN.gov/SomaliEE



Escanee este código para ver en
español
EdinaMN.gov/SpanishEE

City Moves Forward with Plans for Flood Infrastructure in Morningside Neighborhoods

Barr Engineering Hired to Provide Engineering Services for Project

The City has plans to reduce flooding in the Morningside Neighborhood.

Roadway reconstruction is planned in the Morningside Neighborhood in 2022 and 2023, presenting an opportunity to consider infrastructure improvements to manage flooding. Staff began having conversations with residents and working on possible solutions in early 2020 to have ideas solidified before design of the streets begins this year.

The Edina City Council at its April 20 meeting approved staff's recommendation to pursue the following improvements:

- Expand and lower Weber Pond going into Weber Woods with natural resource restoration and creation of nature trails and a bridge or floating boardwalk across the pond
- Expand and lower Lynn/Kipling mixed wetland and pond with aquatic and other natural resource restoration
- Expand pipe and swale to provide overflow from the Lynn/Kipling mixed wetland and pond
- Expand and reconfigure pipe network extending west on 42nd Street, south on Crocker Avenue, east on Morningside Road, south on Grimes Avenue and west on Branson Street.

While flooding on private properties and risk to homes would not be eliminated by these improvements, it would be significantly reduced.

The Council also approved a \$1.2 million agreement with Barr Engineering to provide engineering services for the project. Besides working through the designs developed by Barr Engineering, City staff will lead a public engagement effort to get feedback on landscaping choices associated with the project.

In other business last month, the City Council:

- Approved the use of Hennepin County grant funds to reduce residents' monthly organics recycling fee by \$1 for 12 months, provide each household a year's supply of compostable bags and make compost available to residents in neatly packaged one-cubic-foot bags at City events such as the annual tree giveaway associated with Arbor Day.
- Approved a Travel Demand Management (TDM) Policy. To reduce the number of vehicular trips on congested roadways during peak travel times, the policy would be used as new projects are considered by

the City. It recommends thresholds for applicability, required plan components and methods for administration and compliance.

- Reviewed sketch plans and provided nonbinding feedback for proposed redevelopments at 4630 France Ave. and 5146 Eden Ave.

The City Council will next meet 7 p.m. Tuesdays May 4 and 18. For more information, visit EdinaMN.gov.

– COMPILED BY JENNIFER BENNEROTTE

City of Edina Goals

The City of Edina has four budget goals. Look for the goal icons throughout this publication to read stories about how the City is working to meet these goals.



Strong Foundation: Maintain physical assets and infrastructure.



Reliable Service: Maintain service levels that best meet the needs of the community.



Livable City: Plan for connected and sustainable development.



Better Together: Foster an inclusive and engaged community.