



Morningside

Neighborhood Association

THE MNA

The Morningside Neighborhood Association (MNA) was founded in 2003 to promote a better community through group action and involvement in local decision-making, and to represent the interests of all residents and property owners in Morningside. The MNA incorporated as a non-profit in 2005. In 2013, the MNA became the City of Edina's first officially recognized neighborhood association.

2012/13 MNA Steering Committee

MNA activities are guided by the MNA steering committee, elected each year at the Annual Meeting. At the 2012 Annual Meeting, MNA members elected Mindy Ahler (Crocker), Helen Burke (Grimes), Mary Carte (Branson), Patricia Corcoran (Monterey), Susan Danzl (Lynn), Jennifer Janovy (Inglewood), Kay Johnson (Oakdale), Tim Rudnicki (Lynn), Scott Smith (Morningside Road) and Paul Thompson (Crocker).

2012 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The Morningside Neighborhood Association held its 2012 Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 28, in the Weber Park warming house. The meeting was preceded by a City Council and Mayoral Candidates Meet and Greet.

The Annual Meeting began with review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report and continued with election of MNA steering committee members, a discussion of concerns related to residential reconstruction in Morningside, and creation of a Weber Park improvement committee.

MNA STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIONS

The MNA steering committee took the following actions during the 2012-2013 year:

Developed recommendations to address residential redevelopment concerns

MNA held a neighborhood conversation on residential reconstruction as part of the 2012 annual meeting. More than 50 MNA members attended. The MNA steering committee prepared a summary of the meeting, which was distributed via the MNA email list and posted on the MNA website in November. The MNA steering committee also formed a subcommittee to follow up on the discussion.

The subcommittee focused its attention on residential zoning code and the City's proposed Construction Management Plan (CMP). MNA steering committee recommendations on the CMP were distributed to the neighborhood, Planning Commission and City Council in February. Recommendations related to the City's residential zoning code were distributed in March.

The process used by the subcommittee to develop the residential zoning code recommendations included:

- Reviewed residential zoning code of Edina and other communities;
- Met with five builders;
- Met with Cary Teague and Kris Aaker in the City's Planning Department;
- Met with Steve Kirchman in Building Inspections;

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- Met with members of the Planning Commission subcommittee on residential zoning;
 - Attended both public input sessions on residential construction;
 - Additional small group and individual meetings with interested residents

The MNA steering committee acknowledged that in any discussion on residential zoning, there are likely to be a variety of views. There are residents who want to see more restrictive residential zoning code and residents who do not. The MNA steering committee's goal was to balance these divergent perspectives and make practical recommendations that not only address the concerns raised at the October meeting, but also simplify the code and plan review.

MNA steering committee recommendations, made in response to neighborhood concerns, were:

- Increase interior side yard setbacks
- Reduce building height
- Set building lot coverage at 25% for all lots (a 0-5% reduction, depending on lot area)
- Require on-site access between front and back yards
- Protect trees
- Address drainage concerns
- Encourage garages that do not dominate front facade
- Preserve neighborhood character
- Institute administrative site plan review

Details of the recommendations can be found on the MNA website: www.edinamorningside.org.

The City Council adopted some residential zoning code changes in 2013. A comparison of the MNA recommendations and the Council-adopted changes can be found in the attached chart.

The City Council also adopted a new section of code that applies to demolition permits and permits for construction of new single or double dwelling units. This section of code is now the City's construction management plan. It is important to note that this new section of code does not apply to large remodels or additions if 50% or less of the existing structure is demolished.

Became City of Edina's first recognized neighborhood association

MNA held a special meeting on Sunday, May 19 in the Weber Park warming house to discuss and vote on updating the MNA bylaws and whether the MNA should apply for City recognition as a neighborhood association under the City's newly adopted policy. The proposed bylaws changes were distributed in advance of the meeting and posted on the MNA website.

At the meeting, MNA members voted to amend the MNA bylaws to include a legal description of the neighborhood boundaries and a non-discrimination statement. MNA members also voted to apply to the City for recognition as a neighborhood association. The City granted recognition in May, making MNA the first (and currently only) City-recognized neighborhood association.

Hosted a presentation on aircraft noise and RNAV

As part of the special meeting in May, MNA also hosted a presentation and discussion on aircraft noise and the FAA's proposed implementation of RNAV (which stands for aRea NAVigation). As a rule, flight patterns over Edina are currently dispersed. Implementing RNAV as proposed would concentrate these flight patterns into bands. The impact would be that aircraft noise may be reduced in some areas, but increased in others.

Minneapolis resident and member of MSP FairSkies Coalition, Kevin Terrell, presented information on these proposed changes and how they could impact Morningside. Following the presentation, MNA distributed a link to the MSP FairSkies website and Mr. Terrell's video presentation.

Worked with Nextdoor.com to expand Morningside's online neighborhood

Nextdoor is a private social network for neighborhoods. A Nextdoor neighborhood had been started for Morningside; however, it included only a small section of the neighborhood. The MNA steering committee worked with Nextdoor to expand the online boundaries to include everyone in the Morningside neighborhood. MNA then distributed invitations to invite Morningside residents to join. As of this writing, 246 Morningside residents have signed up for Nextdoor.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The MNA hosted a City Council Candidates Meet and Greet in conjunction with our 2012 Annual Meeting.

In January, the MNA supported the City of Edina's Winter Neighborhood Night Out in Weber Park, with a financial contribution and volunteers at the event. In February, the MNA hosted a Winter Afternoon at Weber.

In May, the MNA held a special meeting to discuss and vote on updating the MNA bylaws and seeking recognition from the City of Edina as a neighborhood association.

In conjunction with the special meeting in May, the MNA hosted a presentation on aircraft noise and proposed changes to flight patterns over Morningside.

In August, the MNA sponsored Neighborhood Night to Unite in Weber Park. As always, the event was well attended, as individuals and families of all ages came out to enjoy time with neighbors. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and the event ended early.

STAYING INFORMED

The MNA communicates with the neighborhood in four primary ways: an email distribution list, posts on Nextdoor.com, the MNA website (www.edinamorningside.org), and through flyers delivered to every household, thanks to a network of dedicated volunteers.

Although our email list continues to grow, there are still many Morningside residents who do not receive our emails. If you are not currently on our email list, please sign up by sending your name and address to edina.morningside@gmail.com. The MNA makes every effort limit the number of emails sent and never shares your address with any outside organization.

2012/2013 TREASURER'S REPORT

The MNA starting balance on October 1, 2012 was \$714.52. Donations totaled \$60 and submitted expenditures totaled \$78.75, bringing the ending balance on September 30, 2013 to \$695.77.

The MNA, like all volunteer organizations, relies on financial contributions from MNA members. Your financial contribution will directly benefit our neighborhood by funding social activities that build community and communications that keep us connected and informed.

In order to grant membership to all Morningside residents, dues are not charged; however, a voluntary contribution of any amount is very much appreciated.

To make a financial contribution, please send a check, made payable to the MNA, to Judy Plant, Treasurer, 4350 Morningside Road, Edina, MN 55416. Thank you.

THANK YOU

- City Council candidates Chad Bell, Mary Brindle, Wayne Dvorak, and Ann Swenson, and mayoral candidates Jim Hovland and Linda Masica for attending last year's City Council and Mayoral Candidates Meet and Greet

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- Kevin Terrell for presenting on aircraft noise and Michael Platteter for giving an update on Planning Commission work on residential zoning code at the May special meeting
 - City of Edina for photocopying meeting notices for our special meeting in May and the 2013 annual meeting, and for waiving the fee to use the warming house for the 2013 annual meeting, in accordance with the City's neighborhood associations policy
 - Joni Bennett for serving on the MAC's Noise Oversight Committee and keeping us updated on aircraft noise and flight pattern discussions
 - All volunteers who helped at MNA events and delivered flyers this year
 - Everyone who showed up for an MNA event or signed up for the MNA email list
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2013 ANNUAL MEETING • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

MNA membership is automatically extended to all Morningside residents and property owners age 18 and older. Dues are not required, but donations are welcome. All MNA members may participate in and vote at MNA meetings, be elected to serve on the Steering Committee, and serve on subcommittees.

Please state your name and address the first time you speak at today's meeting.

Please sign in and/or update your information for the email distribution list.

School Board Candidates Meet and Greet

3:00 p.m.

Candidate remarks scheduled for 3:20 p.m.

Guest Speaker

4:00 p.m.

The Linden Hills Small Area Plan, And The Small Area Planning Process, Purpose and Benefits--Bob Kost, SEH

The plan area includes the Minneapolis side of 44th & France

Business Meeting

4:45 p.m.

Agenda

Announcements

Presentation of 2012/2013 annual report

- Update on residential zoning code (see attached)

Election of 2013/2014 steering committee

Discussion

- Proposed sidewalks to be constructed in 2014
- Other questions or neighborhood concerns

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For more information email edina.morningside@gmail.com or see www.edinamorningside.org.

Comparison of MNA Steering Committee recommendations to adopted residential zoning code changes

	MNA Recommendations	Adopted Changes	Notes
Height	Eliminate measurement to the midpoint of roof	Yes	
	Cap height at 30' on lots less than 75' wide	Yes	
	Measure height from first floor elevation	No	
Interior Side Yard Setbacks	On lots up to 75' wide, increase interior side yard setbacks by up to 6' total, depending on lot width	On lots from 50' to 75' wide, interior side yard setbacks are increased by 2' total ONLY when additional second story setback is not applied	Builders/homeowners are given two options: 1) Keep the existing interior side yard setbacks and the existing additional second story setback OR 2) Increase interior side yard setbacks by 2' total and additional second story setback will not apply NOTE: Due to a drafting error during code revisions, all setbacks for lots under 50' in width were eliminated. This has been called to the Planning Department's attention and should be addressed before the code change goes into effect on January 1, 2014.
	Eliminate additional second story setback (in concert with increasing interior side yard setback and reducing building height)	Yes and No—see above	
	Apply same interior side yard setback to attached garage as to principle structure (house)	Yes	The Council intended to make this change, but due to a drafting error, the change was not clearly stated in code. This has been called to the Planning Department's attention and should be addressed before the code change goes into effect on January 1, 2014.
Retaining Walls		3' interior side yard setback for retaining walls more than 4' high; walls must be shown on grading plan	

Access	Require on-site access between front and back yards	Yes—3' unobstructed area must be provided on one side of the house	
		3' interior side yard setback for egress window wells on one side of the house	
Building Lot Coverage	Set lot coverage at 25% for all lots under 9,000 sq. ft. in area	No	Building lot coverage under current code is set at 30% for lots under 9,000 sq. ft.; however, current code also limits building lot coverage to 2,500 sq. ft. As a result, building lot coverage varies from 25%-30% on lots 9,000 sq. ft. and under
	Allow 400 sq. ft. bonus for detached garage located in rear yard	No	
Drainage	Strengthen code and plan review	Yes	New language added to strengthen code; unclear whether plan review procedures have been strengthened
Trees	Comprehensive tree preservation and replacement ordinance	No	For tear-downs and remodels: no requirement to protect or replace trees. For undeveloped lots: Tree removal requires a permit and replacement trees may be required
Garages	Create neighborhood character guidelines and institute administrative site plan review; increase interior side yard setback and provide bonus for detached garage to rear of house	No	
Sidewall Articulation		Require a sidewall longer than 30' to be broken up by a feature, such as a bay or box window, chimney or balcony	
Neighborhood Character	Develop guidelines for neighborhood character with input from neighborhood task force	No	

Site Plan Review	Institute administrative site plan review to encourage desirable design elements that may not be specified in code	No	
Non-conformities	Eliminate alternate setback rule	No	Existing rule permits up to 200 sq. ft. encroachment into setback without a variance

For information only. Check with City of Edina Planning Department for current requirements.