

Hills' future land use discussed

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills City Council members discussed future land use in the city with the city's planning commissioners at a joint meeting Oct. 2.

Claude Coates, the city's planning consultant, made a presentation on the history of land planning in the city and talked about open space provisions, planned unit developments and zoning options.

City Planner Ed Gardiner talked about vacant land within the city, which accounts for about

8 percent of the city's property. Of that, about half is dedicated for residential development and half is zoned for office or commercial.

The Planning Commission has completed public input study sessions concerning the master plan in the four quadrants of the city. It will review possible changes to the plan and is scheduled to submit a new master plan in the spring of 1996.

Restricting the uses of open space and the possibility of excluding wetlands, retention basins and other uses from the

formula that requires a ratio of open space to used space was also discussed.

Assistant City Manager Dave Call said the commissioners also discussed changing zoning to reflect present residential development in seven or eight areas in the city. The change could help residents, like those on Power Road north of 11 Mile, have a zoning that better reflects a less dense development.

"The idea was, why not change the zoning to reflect what's already there?" Call said.

Schools review open campus policy

BY MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

A tradition at Clarenceville High dating back more than 20 years may be coming to an end soon.

An open campus, whereby students can leave school grounds during lunch hour, is the target of a special review committee which will decide if it's time to close the doors on the policy.

"It's an emotional issue, with strong arguments on both sides," said David Simowski, Clarenceville principal. "We expect a decision before the end of the current school year."

Simowski proposed the idea to the Clarenceville Board of Education at a recent meeting in an effort to curb loitering and littering problems near the school at 20165 Middlebelt, north of Seven Mile in Livonia.

CLARENCEVILLE

Current policy allows all 430 students in grades 9-12 to leave school property during the lunch hour.

The school board authorized the formation of a committee that will include teachers, administrators, students and parents.

"With an open campus, there are issues like tardiness and truancy, crossing the street illegally — these come up from time to time," Simowski said.

"It's time to give thorough study to this issue and decide once and for all if the campus should be closed, or at least closed for freshmen and sophomores."

Trustee Gary Garrison, who is on the committee that will decide

the issue, said he is entering the discussion with an open mind.

"I have my position, which I'm not willing to share at this time. I want to reserve my opinion until we've made a thorough investigation of the issue," said Garrison.

The committee has not yet met. Another trustee, Gary Gasser, said there have been complaints each year regarding students throwing trash in the surrounding neighborhood. Other students often skip the period following lunch. Gasser is not on the committee.

"The committee will look at the impact, and the cost, because I don't imagine every door can be watched," said Gasser.

"We've talked about the option of leaving it open for older kids. The committee is planning to look at what other school districts are doing in this regard."

Beautification commission, mayor win award

Farmington's Beautification Commission usually presents awards. But on Thursday, Oct. 12, the commission, along with Mayor Arnold Campbell, will receive an Award of Merit from Keep Michigan Beautiful Inc.

"We think it's a great shift," said Rosemary Fitzpatrick, commission chairperson.

The Grand River Beautification project was selected as a winner by KMB officials. The award will be presented at an annual awards ceremony at Ford World Headquarters in Dearborn.

The award-winning project began in November 1994 as a cooperative effort between Lawrence Technological University, the beautification commission, and the city of Farmington. The concept was to explore alternatives in developing and enhancing Farmington's "Main Street" — Grand River, from Orchard Lake Road to Shiloh Road.

At Lawrence, Professor Will Allen assigned 41 senior students from day and night classes working in teams to the academic exercise. The city council endorsed the project, and City

Manager Frank J. Lauff agreed to provide support services including building blueprints, necessary code and ordinance material.

The project was completed in winter term, and students presented their aesthetic plan for the Grand River corridor to city officials and the business community April 6.

Each student received a letter of commendation from the city for their creative input to what could be a beautiful concept for the future.

"Everybody won," said Maria Miller, one of the originating Beautification Commissioners.



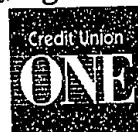
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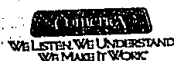
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