

PLANS  
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square-foot building proposed to house two or three retail stores is also set for the project. The buildings will share a neo-classical facade.

The developers said Monday the buildings should be open for business by next fall.

Since the property is a planned unit development, the council has a say in the buildings' appearance.

The council insisted on walkways and green space to highlight the project, which is expected to include homes in subsequent phases.

Remaining homeowners along Clairview Drive to the west of the development got their wish of having a six-foot tall berm with landscaping on top built to screen the latest project from their backyards.

Nine occupied homes remain on land proposed for future development, said developer Gary Sakva.

He said at a previous meeting that when a retailer is ready to build on the remaining western portion, the homeowners will be offered buy outs.

All signs and outside lighting issues in the latest development phase were put off to a future meeting.

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CHANGES  
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proposed name change for the organization. The existing MCMR mission statement and guiding principles are already under review.

Committees focused on business, community education, neighborhoods and housing will identify goals aimed at making Farmington and Farmington Hills model cities.

The first order of business of the mission statement committee was changing the name of the group to the Farmington/ Farmington Hills Diversity Council, said committee member Joni Hubred.

The proposed declaration of purpose read: "The Farmington/ Farmington Hills Diversity Council advocates all people are integral to the community's health and harmony. The FFHDC and the community unite to celebrate our differences and embrace our commonality. The council raises consciousness, creates networks and fosters meaningful participation."

Audience members made suggestions for minor changes, which the committee will consider at its next meeting. Committee member Bridget Dean said those who worked on the change started with the premise that the mission statement be brief and general in nature.

The guiding principles and action plans will encompass what the council will do to fulfill those goals.

Dean is a bilingual coordinator for the Farmington Public Schools.

The large group will again meet in February, when each committee will discuss issues and identify struggles within the community, said facilitator Shea Howell, an Oakland University professor.

Co-chairwoman Karen Bolten commented on how well-attended the initial meetings have been.

The first in October drew more than 100 adults and students; about 80 attended last week's meeting.

"It was touching to hear all the people here," said Priscilla Brouillette, a parent and Farmington school board member. "I've been on the steering committee for six years. It's wonderful hearing the new voices."

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CREEK  
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mold levels outside the home, she said.

Roden and her husband bought the home four years ago and have felt lousy since, she said. Their daughter has respiratory problems and Roden is tired of paying for medical and vet bills.

She told the city council recently about her concerns.

"The city needs to fix this problem before it gets any worse," she said.

Roden is suggesting the city redig the two properties to restore the natural spring and to have the creek dredged on a regular basis to keep water flowing.

Assistant City Manager Dana Whinnery met with Roden recently. He said this is the first time the problem has been brought to the city's attention.

"She shared a lot of information that I am going to thoroughly review this week with the engineering department, DFW and with our environmental coordinator. We'll see if we can determine what's going on and what might be appropriate for the city to assist to help. We'll see what might be our responsibility in remediation for this at this point we're not sure what it is."

Roden said she has contacted the Oakland County Health Department, the Department of Environmental Quality and all the state Department of Natural Resources about her concern. She said those agencies told her it's the city's responsibility to address the issue.

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Hills fiscal audit shows healthy balance

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills annual fiscal audit report shows the city's fund balance at a healthy \$5.5 million and its operation tax rate of 10.165 mills has not changed in five years.

A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of a home's state equalized value. For year ending June 30, 2002, the city's total revenues were \$44,463,000, with the city's operating levy generating 57 percent of the budget, followed by intergovernmental revenues at 30 percent; charges for services at 14 percent; and interest and fines at 8 percent.

Expenditures were \$43,100,000 with public safety swallowing 40 percent of the budget, followed by public services at 31 percent; general government at 17 percent; library, 7 percent; and the district court at 4 percent. The city's fund balance is 13 percent of next year's projected budget, said the Doug Bohrer with the auditing firm of Plante & Moran.

The city's fund balance is seven weeks of expenditures.

While the city collects a tax of 10.165 mills, the other tax levies for homeowners are:

- State education tax, 6 mills,
- Farmington Schools, 12.863 mills,
- Oakland Schools, 3.452 mills,
- Oakland Community College, 1.595 mills,
- Oakland County, 5.578 mills.

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