



City of Burnsville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNCIL IS UNANIMOUS IN VOTE TO DENY DISCRETIONARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER SITE

City Council had already conducted considerable environmental review in 2001

The Burnsville City Council voted 5-0 to affirm a previously approved Environmental Assessment Worksheet or EAW and deny consideration of a discretionary EAW at their Monday, August 20 meeting. The Council acted following receipt of a citizen petition requesting such a review and a determination by the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board that they would be the proper unit of government to make such a decision.

The City Council was able to dismiss the petition for further environmental review because they had already conducted and approved an exhaustive EAW on the core redevelopment area for the Heart of the City in 2001.

This EAW addressed all potential impacts including traffic, noise, stormwater, soils, hazardous materials, air quality, odors compatibility, land use and infrastructure based on development assumptions, including the construction of a performing arts center/theater on the exact site where the Burnsville Performing Arts Center will be built.

In addition, the size and scale of the Performing Arts Center envisioned in the 2001 EAW was larger in scope than the center that is under development. That review included development scenarios with performing arts center/theaters sized at 99,000 or 108,000 sf with seating up to 1,198 people. The approved Burnsville Performing Arts Center will be 65,000 sf and seat a maximum of 1000 in the main theater.

Development of the Burnsville Performing Arts Center will now continue on schedule. Site preparation will begin in August with project completion set for late fall 2008. The center will be located at the western end of Nicollet Commons Park in Burnsville's Heart of the City, a 54-acre pedestrian friendly downtown area for Burnsville. More information about the center is available on the city's website at www.burnsville.org/pac on the internet.

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