

**STAFF SUMMARY
CITY OF MINNETONKA
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL STUDY SESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2007
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Council Present: Dick Allendorf, Bob Ellingson, Terry Schneider, Al Thomas, Tony Wagner, Brad Wiersum and Mayor Jan Callison

Council Absent: None

Staff: John Gunyou, Geralyn Barone, David Maeda

Callison called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and explained the interview process.

1. Boards and commissions interviews

Chad Bacon is a clinical supervisor of an adult mental health unit for Carver County. He has been an active volunteer with the American Cancer Society for five years and is also involved with the Mental Health Advisory Council in Carver County. He and his wife moved to Minnetonka two years ago from St. Louis Park in large part because they were impressed with the park system. He believes open space is not just a policy for Minnetonka, but rather an edict.

Bacon indicated he is mostly familiar with conservation in Purgatory Park but has visited other parks in the city as well.

Scott Christensen is an architect for Opus Architects and Engineers and has volunteered in a number of civic capacities, including as a trust monitor for the Minnesota Land Trust Affiliate and as a member of the Minnetonka Open Space Preservation Task Force. He has lived in Minnetonka for 18 years and has two kids who have gone through the school system. He is personally interested in conservation and has a professional interest in urban design and planning. He believes his experience as an architect will transfer over well into park board issues. He believes global sustainability begins with sustainable cities.

Christensen noted his work at Opus has brought him experience in dealing with institutional clients, committee structures, and stakeholder representation.

Amber Greves is a five-year resident of Minnetonka and grew up in the Des Moines, Iowa area. She earned her bachelor of arts in speech and hearing services from the University of Iowa and her master's in communications disorders from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. When moving to the Twin Cities with her husband and two children, the number one draw to Minnetonka was the park system. Since moving here, she has been involved in Mom's Club of Minnetonka, coordinating community service and fundraising projects. She also currently works part-time for the school district as a speech pathologist.

Greves stated she is very interested in how government works, particularly with citizen involvement from the community. She believes open space is a vital

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aspect to the community, and the city has created a very good balance in preserving natural resources and development.

Dewey Hassig has been a Minnetonka resident for 40 years. He spent 80-plus hours over the past year in volunteer service to the city, and he believes the park board is another way to serve the community. He has served on the heritage commission, as a tour guide for the Burwell House, and has spent 40 hours in buckthorn removal. His hobbies include raising native plants and wildflowers and raising honeybees and monarch butterflies. He also enjoys fishing and walking in the parks.

Hassig indicated it is important to balance open spaces with development issues.

In response to a question by Callison about quality versus quantity of parks, Hassig indicated the quality of parks suffer if there are too many to maintain.

2. Adjournment

The study session adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Maeda
City Clerk