

**STAFF SUMMARY
CITY OF MINNETONKA
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2007
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Council Present: Bob Ellingson, Terry Schneider, Al Thomas, Tony Wagner, Brad Wiersum and Mayor Jan Callison

Council Absent: Dick Allendorf

Staff: John Gunyou, Geralyn Barone, David Maeda

Others: None

Callison called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and explained the interview process.

City Manager John Gunyou reported on the upcoming meeting schedule. The next regular meeting will be February 5 beginning at 6:00 p.m. to conclude the interview process. Callison will deliver the State of the City Address on February 7 at 7:30 a.m.

Gunyou said the council may wish to begin looking at the issue of a potential salary increase for councilmembers. He said that since the last time the issue was discussed three years ago, council salaries were in line with the salaries for like-sized neighboring cities. Since then the disparity has grown to around \$1,000 to \$1,500. By state law, an increase can not become effective until after an election, so if the council does not act on the issue this year, any increase would have to wait until another election cycle.

Thomas said it may be time to review the process for interviewing board and commissions candidates. He suggested it might be a good idea to conduct more in depth interviews for candidates for those boards and commissions who make decisions on behalf of the council. He said another idea would be for councilmembers to rotate serving on different interview panels for some of the interviews.

Callison said that more in depth interviews might be too time consuming. She asked staff to look into council interest in changing the process.

1. Boards and commissions interviews

Darrell Ansel

Ansel said he was a 35 year resident. His career has included owning a retail liquor store, and working as a licensed realtor. Ansel worked as a reserve police volunteer and said the city should be proud of the professionalism and work ethic of the police force. He is interesting in serving the city because he would like to continue making a contribution to the community.

Alan Henningsgaard

Henningsgaard said he has 20 years experience in the corporate world. He is a 23 year Minnetonka resident with three kids. He currently serves on the Hopkins School Board Education Foundation. He would like to be more involved in the community. Thomas asked his views on the Glen Lake development project.

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Henningsgaard said he supports development efforts because he abhors franchise world and supports building unique neighborhoods.

Paul Lehman

Lehman has lived in Minnetonka for over 40 years. He chaired the Park Board and would like to continue community service. He said he has had a life long passion for recreation. He currently works as an electrical engineer for Xcel Energy.

John Mullins

Mullins has lived in Minnetonka for three years with wife and daughter. He said he applied for a position because the city is a place where he wants to be 20 years from now- and thus would like to have an impact on the community. Mullins said the city has a great park system- and he is interested in serving on planning commission or economic development authority rather than the park board because current park system already working well and he wants to work to effect progress.

David Nichols

Nichols grew up in Cincinnati, and earned his undergraduate degree in Indiana and his masters at Northwestern. He currently works for United Health Group. He said he first learned about the city through a fraternity friend and eventually he and his wife (who is from Bloomington) decided to move here. Nichols said that in his spare time he enjoys studying how cities come together either intentionally or organically and how zoning and development make a city what it is.

Kristine Sundberg

Sundberg moved to Minnetonka area in the early 1980's raised her children here. She has a master's degree in environmental sciences. She has worked for Super Valu as well as owning a small business. She said one reason she applied is with her private sector background she is now interested in serving in the public policy arena. She was appointed by the governor to the Minnesota Racing Commission.

Blaine Waters

Waters grew up in Edina. He said that while looking for a house to buy last August, he and his wife decided on Minnetonka over other neighboring suburbs. He said he loves Minnetonka's big trees. He said that he knew he had made the right decision immediately because it felt like home right away. He said one challenge facing the city is more and more pressure for redevelopment

Thomas Yang

Yang said he came to the U.S. in 1989. He attended Winona State and St. Mary's- earning his B.A. in public administration. He said he applied because

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minority voices needs to be heard in community. While in college he served as an intern to the city manager of Winona working on a project to translate library policies into different languages.

David Daul

Daul said he worked in the city for 12 years and has lived in Minnetonka for two years. He and his wife have three children and the family enjoys the city's parks. Schneider asked Daul to describe his decision making process. Daul replied that he believes that it is important to collect as much information from residents before making a decision. He gave the example of a development issue that arose near his house where horse trails were turned into soccer fields. He said he first opposed the development because he thought the horse trails gave the city part of its identity but that later he accepted the soccer fields because his children used them.

Kyle Gallagher

Gallagher is a special education teacher in the Westonka School District working with emotionally disturbed students. He said last year he decided to become more involved with the community and this led to his attending the city's citizen's academy. He also served as an election judge and currently volunteers in the juvenile diversion program. He said that he has lived in Minnetonka for 10 years and loves its proximity to downtown Minneapolis as well as the parks and the sense of community that one feels when going to different parts of the city. Thomas asked what Gallagher thought were the strengths and weaknesses of the citizen's academy. Gallagher replied that he found the section on parks and recreation most informative and that he couldn't identify any real weaknesses in the program.

2. Adjournment

The study session adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Maeda
City Clerk