

**STAFF SUMMARY
CITY OF MINNETONKA
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL STUDY SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009
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Council Present: Dick Allendorf, Amber Greves, James Hiller, Brad Wiersum and Mayor Terry Schneider

Council Absent: Bob Ellingson and Tony Wagner

Staff: John Gunyou, Geralyn Barone and David Maeda

1. Boards and commissions interviews

Edward Friedman

Friedman said he was a Minnetonka resident for 32 years. He has been actively involved with cleanup efforts in Purgatory Park. He has worked with the Park Board on issues related to dogs in the park.

Allendorf asked if Friedman was familiar with other city parks other than Purgatory Park. Friedman said although he was most familiar with Purgatory, he has spent time in Meadow, Big Willow, Jidana, and Evergreen parks. He has also enjoyed the city's trail system.

Wiersum noted that Friedman said he used "creative brainstorming activities" for his work at Honeywell. He asked Friedman how that might be applied to work as a Park Board member. Friedman said that at the meetings he has attended there have been a lot of good ideas but often there wasn't a leader to speak up to communicate the ideas of a significant group of people.

Greves asked what other issues beyond the dog issues interest Friedman in applying for the Park Board. He said when participating in a discussion about city daycare activities related to lakes he would have asked the question about what specifications would be used for the life preservers. He also has interest in park accessibility issues for senior citizens.

Elise Raarup

Raarup said her family is a heavy user of the city's natural resources. She is interested in serving on the Park Board to look for ways to attract and keep families in the city.

Hiller asked what attracted the Raarup family to Minnetonka. Raarup replied she liked the resources the city put into its park renewals, the schools, and open spaces in the city.

Schneider asked Raarup to comment on her thoughts about balancing the preservation of open spaces and the demands to use the land. Raarup said a balance and mix is important to people.

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Wiersum asked what needs improvement in the city. Raarup said she would like to learn more about how the grass on the ball fields is treated and maintained. She said she would also like to learn more about how the summer programs are supervised.

Greves asked what characteristics Raarup would bring to the Park Board. Raarup said her work background has helped her develop the ability to bring a wide variety of people together and to be able to look at multiples sides of issues.

Bjorn Rossing

Rossing indicated he wants to serve on the Park Board due to his interest and knowledge of water quality issues.

Wiersum asked what Rossing's vision for the city particularly related to open space and parks issues. Rossing said that there has to be a balance between the community and wild life.

Schneider asked what role the city plays in maintaining the health of the forest areas in the city. Rossing replied that the nursery industry has come up with different varieties of trees. As an example he said the city could harvest some of its more mature trees and put in hard woods.

2. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Maeda
City Clerk