

**STAFF SUMMARY  
CITY OF MINNETONKA  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL STUDY SESSION  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009  
PAGE 1**

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**Council:** Dick Allendorf, Amber Greves, James Hiller, Tony Wagner, and Mayor Terry Schneider were present. Bob Ellingson was absent.

**Staff:** John Gunyou, Geralyn Barone, and David Maeda

**1. Boards and Commissions Interviews**

Schneider called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

**Ryan Erickson** is a junior at Hopkins High School where he is a member of tennis team. He has done volunteer work at the ICA and has worked for the Recreation Department and at the Oakridge Country Club.

Wiersum asked what inspired Erickson to do volunteer work and what he liked about the work. Erickson replied that he enjoyed helping people and finding solution to problems.

Schneider asked if Erickson would be interested in serving for more than one year since he was a high school junior. Erickson said he would definitely be interested in serving for more than one year.

Wagner asked why Erickson ranked his top three choices as the police advisory committee, the planning commission, and the community commission. Erickson said that he thought police work was interesting.

Greves noted that one issue Erickson identified on his application was "safety in schools." She asked him to elaborate. Erickson said that gangs and bullying were issues in the Hopkins School District. He was interested in finding solutions to increase student safety.

Allendorf asked for Erickson to comment on the effectiveness of the police liaison program. Erickson said the program was helpful at times but that the officers while present, do not get too involved. He suggested that it might help if the officers spoke about what they are at the school for.

Schneider said that he was looking for students who were willing to express an opinion on a board that was comprised of adults. He asked if Erickson had any experience in that area. Erickson indicated he had not served on a committee with adults but that he thought it was important to express the youth point of view because youth are a big part of society.

**Marli Komarek** is a junior at Hopkins High School and has been active in the Youth in Government program. She currently is the Ridgedale delegate and is responsible for expressing the opinions of students to the director. She is also a

**STAFF SUMMARY  
CITY OF MINNETONKA  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL STUDY SESSION  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009  
PAGE 2**

---

member of the math team. Two years ago the math team went to state. She plays drums and is the drummer for the high school's production of "The Wizard of Oz." Komarek said she is hard working, well organized, respectful, and friendly. She dislikes when people interrupt because it is frustrating when ideas cannot be communicated.

Hiller noted Komarek's interest in serving on the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District and park board. He asked her to elaborate on her interest in environmental issues. Komarek said she was interested in maintaining the city's natural resources. She said water conservation and making new energy are important issues. She is concerned about what she has read about the possible extinction of polar bears due to global warming.

Allendorf noted despite Komarek's interest in environmental issues, she ranked the police advisory committee as her top choice. Komarek said she thought the police were important and the relationship between people and the police and dealing with conflict all interested her. She said that she would now rank serving on the park board as her number one choice. Greves noted the park board addresses many of the natural resource issues Komarek was interested in.

**John LaRoy** is a senior at Hopkins High School where he is a percussionist in the jazz band and plays on the soccer team. He is also on the math team. He said he was responsible and kind.

Wiersum noted that LaRoy has done volunteer work at the Courage Center. He asked what originally interested LaRoy in volunteering and what he had learned through his volunteer work. LaRoy said that he had seen an advertisement at a movie theater and thought it would be interesting. He said working at the Courage Center had been a great experience. He learned a lot about people and how to get over his discomfort at working with people with disabilities.

Hiller noted that LaRoy was the only one to identify a city issue in his application. He asked if LaRoy followed the city council. LaRoy said his family was discussing the Minnehaha Creek issue when he was filling out his application. He would like to see the natural resources in the area preserved as well as the businesses.

Greves asked LaRoy elaborate on his interest in engineering. LaRoy replied that he planned on studying engineering in college. He was interested in serving on the planning commission because he would like to see how areas are planned and organized.

Schneider asked what field of engineering LaRoy was interested in studying. LaRoy replied his interest is in biomedical or mechanical engineering.

**STAFF SUMMARY  
CITY OF MINNETONKA  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL STUDY SESSION  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009  
PAGE 3**

---

**Kyle Stowe** said he was a senior at Wayzata High School. He lives a block away from Meadow Park and has also enjoyed Big Willow. He values the city's parks and wants to help ensure they are maintained. His first memories of the city are visiting the Burwell House when he was six years old. He said learning about the history of the city inspired him. He writes on the school newspaper. He also enjoys swimming and baseball. He said he was also interested in the buildup to last year's elections.

Wiersum noted that LaRoy indicated in his application that he had taken a human geography course. He asked LaRoy to elaborate on what he learned. LaRoy said the class had been one of his favorites. He enjoyed learning about how different land is used and how issues like urban sprawl and agricultural practices tie into different facets of land. He also learned how different cultures use land differently.

**2. Adjournment**

The study session adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Maeda  
City Clerk