

**STAFF SUMMARY  
CITY OF MINNETONKA  
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010  
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**Council Present:** Amber Greves, James Hiller, Tony Wagner, Brad Wiersum, and Mayor Terry Schneider.

**Council Excused:** Dick Allendorf, Bob Ellingson

**Staff:** John Gunyou, Geralyn Barone

**1. Boards and Commissions Interviews**

David Asp

Asp reviewed his background. Greves asked how his experience on the community action board would help him serve on the planning commission or EDA. Asp said he has experience dealing with broad policy issues, such as helping people in need, transportation and housing. Wiersum asked what type of law Asp practices, and Asp responded employment law.

Wagner asked how Asp would balance interpretation of the zoning ordinance and guide plan with neighborhood opinion. Asp said his role would be to apply the ordinance to the facts and understand community values through the guide plan. Schneider noted the time commitment involved in serving. Asp stated he understood the workload and was willing to commit the time needed.

Chad Bacon

Bacon reviewed his background. Hiller asked what he thought of the city's parks. Bacon cited improvements in Purgatory (stewardship) and Spring Hill (ice rink) parks. He said the changes in Purgatory Park have been dramatic, adding that he's an advocate of eradicating invasive plants. Greves noted Bacon's involvement in the American Cancer Society and inquired if he would be interested in serving on the community commission. Bacon responded affirmatively, pointing to his experience mobilizing volunteers and his work as a Peace Corp volunteer.

Schneider asked Bacon to elaborate on his idea that the park board can be a vehicle for change. Bacon said the parks are a beacon where families and groups can come together, serving as spokes of a wheel for the city. Wiersum asked how funding for parks could be sustained. Bacon said fundraisers and use of volunteers are options, and fees could be raised as a last option. He added the city should make making donations easy.

Schneider asked how Bacon would balance the public good with what residents want. Bacon said people should be allowed to voice an opinion at the ground floor, and he would hope for a give-and-take. Wagner asked about Bacon's concerns about park traffic. Bacon said there is a great deal of foot and animal

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traffic at Purgatory Park. He said it's incumbent upon each person, including pet owners, to take care of the parks.

Bonnie Harper-Lore

Harper-Lore said she is open to serving as Minnetonka's representative on the Bassett Creek Watershed District (BCWD) board. She reviewed her background. Wiersum asked if she had any ideas of how things could be done differently in Minnetonka's parks and open areas. Harper-Lore said improvements in public awareness of invasive species could be made.

Wagner said the BCWD board meets mid-day, and Harper-Lore pointed out that she is retired and would be available then. Wagner asked about her experience working with multiple jurisdictions. She responded that in her federal job, she worked with federal, state and local government representatives.

Greves asked if Harper-Lore had any interest in serving on other commissions, such as the planning commission. Harper-Lore responded that although that might be interesting, she would not feel like she knows enough. She felt the BCWD position would be a better fit given her background.

Schneider noted the evolving direction of watershed districts, particularly related to land use and land planning, and asked for Harper-Lore's thoughts on this. She said the environment is always her first charge, and it's necessary to balance what people need and want. Harper-Lore concluded by saying if she is appointed to the BCWD board, she would want the council to be supportive and open-minded about potential policy changes.

Timothy O'Brien

O'Brien reviewed his background. Greves asked about O'Brien's interest in economic planning of the community. He responded that he would like to leverage what the housing marking is doing and enhance economic success.

Schneider inquired about overbuilding in neighborhoods and the impact of tear-downs/rebuilds. O'Brien discussed this concept and emphasized the need for communication and dialogue. O'Brien noted the importance of being open and allowing citizens the ability to be involved in a dialogue. He stated his strong belief in the use of email. O'Brien said his first choice to serve in 2010 is on the planning commission.

Heather Odland

Odland reviewed her background. Hiller asked about community involvement, and Odland noted the importance of neighborhood connections. Wiersum asked about her interest in the community commission, and Odland said her sales and marketing background seem like a good fit. She wants to keep Minnetonka as a welcome place for everyone.

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Wiersum asked about interests other than the community commission. Odland expressed some interest in the police advisory committee because of a brief stint she had in law enforcement. She said her background is more suited to the community commission, although she thought she'd also be well suited for the police advisory committee. Schneider talked about the need for the community commission to communicate that Minnetonka is open to young families. Odland said bridging neighbors and families together is important to make the community open to all.

Marvin Puspoki

Puspoki reviewed his background. Wagner asked what the role of the community commission should be as village areas are redeveloped. Puspoki noted he had lived in the Glen Lake area and suggested having some activities in the village areas, such as a Glen Lake Day. He pointed out that a lot happens at the Civic Center. Wiersum asked if Puspoki had any recreation ideas for an aging population. Puspoki said he would have to know more about what facilities and programs are currently available, and advocated for having kids more involved with seniors. He suggested using the community survey to find out what seniors are looking for.

Hiller asked what Puspoki thinks about the city's parks. Puspoki responded that with two young children, he's been able to visit every park. He said the renewal of the parks has been great, so the next step is to ensure maintenance of them. He added the open space in the parks is beautiful, and noted the importance of balancing environmental priorities with the interests of property owners and dog walkers. He emphasized the importance of ensuring the parks are kept from declining in maintenance.

Greves asked, given Puspoki's park and recreation background, if he saw any big needs. Puspoki talked about the potential for improvements to the Williston Center and a greater focus there on meeting the needs of seniors and youth. Schneider and Puspoki briefly discussed the community commission and the growth potential for it. Puspoki concluded by pointing out his parks expertise.

Brady Rutman

Rutman reviewed his background. Greves noted the necessary time commitment to serve on the planning commission. Rutman said he hopes to get into landscape design, so his time commitment is up in the air. He pointed out his first choice is the park board, which would be a better fit for him.

Wagner asked about balancing ordinances with neighborhood feedback and also about balancing redesigning a project with providing ideas. Rutman said the public is the reason the ordinance exists. He noted his experience presenting ideas and critiquing others. He said the best case is when everyone is clear and

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honest. Regarding design, Rutman said he could make suggestions without redesigning a project. There was a brief discussion related to storm water management and landscaping.

David Hayek

Hayek reviewed his background. Hiller asked Hayek what he would like to do as an EDA member. Hayek said he could offer some technical expertise and number crunching. Schneider pointed out the EDA has been more focused on housing, such as improving the housing mix and choices. In the past, Schneider said there was no need for the city to draw in businesses, because most wanted to come to Minnetonka no matter what. He said that may change in the Opus area, but the EDA would not be doing much to attract big businesses. Hayek said he is not as familiar with the housing aspect, but he was still interested.

Wiersum asked about serving on other boards, and Hayek said the park board is his second choice. He expressed concern about serving on the planning commission due to the time commitment. Hayek had some interest in the police advisory committee. Wiersum said that group meets four times per year, with a ride-along in the summer. He added there is a new police citizen academy that Hayek may want to attend to learn more about police services. Greves asked Hayek how familiar he is with tax increment financing, and Hayek said he had only heard about it.

**2. Adjournment**

The study session adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Geralyn Barone  
Assistant City Manager