

**Minutes  
Minnetonka Community Commission  
Meeting of July 9, 2007**

**1. Roll Call**

Commission members present: David Hakensen, Anne Vanhorne, Courtney Wieden, Melissa Williamson-Herren

Commission members excused: Barb Westmoreland, Robbie Robinson

Guests: Katie Lee, Hopkins Schools, attended for Barb Westmoreland

Staff: Jacque Larson

Chair Hakensen called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

**2. Discussion Items:**

**a. Introductions**

Katie Lee introduced herself to the commission members and explained she was filling in for Barb Westmoreland, and Jacque Larson explained new member Robbie Robinson was absent due to a vacation.

**b. Review May 30, 2007, meeting minutes**

Hakensen asked commission members if they had any changes or additions to the May 30, 2007, minutes. Hakensen mentioned that city staff had provided follow up to a commission idea regarding a Battle of the Bands event, reporting that Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services already planned to host this event August 18 from 1 to 4 p.m. Hakensen suggested perhaps Vanhorne and Wieden might attend the event to see what they think of it, then report back to the commission.

Lee reported that the Hopkins Raspberry Festival has asked The Depot Coffee House to organize a Battle of the Bands event at the Raspberry Festival. She said The Depot is very familiar with and good at organizing these types of activities.

Hakensen asked Lee how The Depot is funded, and Lee provided a background on the various funding sources for The Depot. She explained that the city of Hopkins leases the land from the county; the Hopkins School District acts as fiscal agent; and the Three Rivers Park District also contributes money as the land is part of a trailhead.

Hakensen asked Vanhorne how The Depot is perceived at Hopkins High School. Vanhorne said students see it as cozy and lots of students go there. She also explained there is a "Depot 2" at the high school that serves the same coffee drinks as The Depot.

Commission members moved on to discuss recruitment of additional members for the commission. Williamson-Herren reported that Annette Poeschel of the ICA expressed interest in an employee, a board member, or a client of ICA serve on the commission. Williamson-Herren also has spoken with another person who may be interested in serving, but who is concerned about the time commitment.

Larson reported that one application has been received by the city, and two other people have expressed interest.

Commission members discussed further ideas for recruiting members of the business community. Williamson-Herren will talk to her contact at Minn-West Bank. Lee reported that the Lunds at Country Village has been very interested lately in working with the school district.

Lee moved, Williamson-Herren seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2007, community commission meeting. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

**c. Discussion of 2007 Resident Survey**

Larson passed out the 2007 Resident Survey Executive Summary. Prior to the meeting, commission members were asked to review this as well as a video presentation, PowerPoint and full data available on the city Web site regarding the Resident Survey.

Hakensen commented on the survey results that indicated the city's communication vehicles, especially the Minnetonka Memo, are widely read by residents, perhaps more so than in other cities.

Larson distributed copies of the July 2007 Minnetonka Memo, which had an article about the comprehensive guide plan process that is underway. Hakensen suggested the commission keep the five goals of the comp plan in mind while moving forward with plans for events or programs.

Lee asked if there were items in the resident survey that jumped out particularly to city staff. The communications vehicles reaching audiences in a positive way was again mentioned, and the idea that

the commission could publicize events and projects through these vehicles.

Williamson-Herren asked if the resident survey included rental properties. Larson responded that while these are not specifically identified in the survey, most likely they are included as part of the sample. Larson also noted that a separate communications survey was completed in 2006 that specifically targeted the rental community.

**d. St. Louis Park photo project**

Hakensen, Williamson-Herren, Westmoreland and Larson visited the St. Louis Park photo exhibit "Our Town: Faces and Places." Hakensen commented on the simplicity of the project, and that there didn't seem to be many rules.

Commission members discussed applying a similar theme to the city's annual photo contest, held in conjunction with the fall open house event. Members liked the idea of displaying all entries at the open house, and allowing visitors to vote on their favorite photo. Staff will begin advertising this event in the August *Minnetonka Memo*, with a deadline for entries of Wednesday, Oct. 3. Vanhorne and Wieden will bring information about the contest to the photography departments at Hopkins and Minnetonka high schools in order to involve students.

**e. Other discussion items**

Lee mentioned two events that the Hopkins School District is working on, and would welcome the partnership of the community commission.

She explained that Katherine Curren Elementary School in Hopkins, closed at the end of the 2006-07 school year due to budget cuts, has been leased to a K-12 Somali charter school. This school will open in the fall of 2007 and will host between 250 and 300 East African students.

The Hopkins School District would like to host a forum, perhaps in mid- to late October, about Somali customs in order to perhaps "build a bridge" between racial groups in the community. The forum would be open to the public and take place at Katherine Curren. Lee explained that the school district hosted a very successful similar event last March that was co-sponsored by ten western school districts, TwinWest Chamber of Commerce, and Qwest – more than 450 people attended the event that was billed as a "conversation about race."

The second event is already planned for November 5, 2007, hosted by the St. Louis Park and Hopkins school districts, and is a forum regarding five groups: African-American, Somali, Latino, Russian and Hmong.

Commission members expressed interest in being involved in both of these events in some capacity.

Lee also mentioned that the St. Louis Park Human Rights Commission is hosting a film series. The first film is July 19, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m, and is a documentary exploring what happened in Lewiston, Maine, when a large number of Somali immigrants moved in. The film will be followed by a discussion.

Commission members discussed ways of reaching different populations in Minnetonka, including recruiting members of these groups to serve on the commission. It was suggested that many of the apartment complexes, including Minnetonka Heights, Cedar Ridge, and Green Briar, host large numbers of immigrants.

Larson passed out articles from a recent *Star Tribune* series "The Suburban Melting Pot," and encouraged commission members to read the series, as much of the information pertains to issues the commission is discussing.

**4. Evaluate meeting**

Members agreed to meet again Monday, August 13, 2007, at 5:30 p.m.

**5. Adjourn**

Chair Hakensen moved; Williamson-Herren seconded the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacque Larson  
Community Relations Manager