

**Minutes
Minnetonka Community Commission
Meeting of August 13, 2007**

1. Roll Call

Commission members present: David Hakensen, Eduardo Jimenez, Michael Kelly, Robbie Rosenthal, Laura Stotts, Anne Vanhorne, Barb Westmoreland, Courtney Wieden

Commission members excused: Melissa Williamson-Herren

Staff: Jacque Larson

Chair Hakensen called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

2. Discussion Items:

a. Introductions

Hakensen welcomed the four newest members of the commission, and asked them to introduce themselves, as well as explain briefly why they chose to serve on the community commission.

Michael Kelly has lived in the area the last 11 years and owns a small business, Great Harvest Bread Company in Minnetonka. He lives in Deephaven, but has been active in the area, serving on Minnetonka's 50th anniversary committee as well as the County Road 101 and Minnetonka Boulevard business owner's group. He has been active in Deephaven as well.

Laura Stotts explained she is now Laura Stotts Gorans, as she was married over the past weekend. She recently moved to the community and looks forward to contributing as well as learning more about the community through her involvement on the commission.

Eduardo Jimenez is originally from Columbia. He works for a small tax and accounting firm in Minneapolis that serves the Hispanic community. He feels this is a very important time for immigrants, and he wanted to serve on a commission where he felt he could make a difference.

Robbie Robinson will be senior this fall at Hopkins High School. He has lived in Minnetonka all his life and is interested in politics, so decided to apply to serve on this commission.

Hakensen then asked the other members of the commission to introduce themselves.

Courtney Wieden will be a junior this fall at Minnetonka High School and learned about the community commission at the Citizen Academy.

Barb Westmoreland was born in Hopkins and moved to Minnetonka when she was in first grade, and has lived here ever since. She works in community education at the Hopkins School District as both volunteer coordinator and family involvement coordinator.

Anne Vanhorne will be a junior this fall at Hopkins High School and learned about the community commission at the Citizen Academy.

b. Review July 9, 2007, meeting minutes

Hakensen asked commission members if they had any changes or additions to the July 9, 2007, minutes.

Kelly moved, Vanhorne seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2007, community commission meeting. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

c. Photo contest

Hakensen explained that at the last meeting members reported on St. Louis Park's photo contest, and decided to have a similar theme for this year's Minnetonka photo contest. Larson showed members the photo contest information that appeared in the August 2007 *Minnetonka Memo*.

Wieden reported that at the Minnetonka High School open house she left a note for the photography teacher regarding the city photo contest.

Larson will prepare flyers about the photo contest for Vanhorne, Wieden and Robinson to bring to their schools for distribution to students.

Kelly suggested a people's choice award for this year's photo contest. Open House attendees will vote for a people's choice from all of the photo contest entries, which will be displayed.

Robinson suggested going to all of the elementary schools in Minnetonka to ask for entries from those students.

d. Fire Department and City-Wide Open House

Larson explained what the annual Fire Department and City-Wide Open House event includes and who attends, and that each city commission has a display.

Hakensen asked the community commission to think about what type of display it would like to have at Open House.

Jimenez asked if the Open House offers a resource fair for residents, with information about community organizations or places to go for assistance with housing, food, etc. Larson said invitations are sent to many community organizations to set up displays in the community room during open house, and that she would provide a list of those organizations to the commission.

It was suggested that Open House might provide an opportunity for commission members to solicit input from the public on what they would like this commission to do, as well as a chance to recruit additional members for the commission.

Westmoreland suggested it would still be useful to have a member representing the apartment community. She will get in touch with the staff member at Crown Ridge Apartments who handles the after-school tutoring program and inquire if she, a resident, or both would like to apply to be on the commission.

Westmoreland said the more diversity there is around the table at commission meetings, the easier it will be to identify what we're missing.

Hakensen mentioned the commission is still looking for a member of the faith community to serve. Westmoreland responded that while we don't have a member specifically representing the faith community, each of the members represents more than one viewpoint.

Westmoreland asked if anyone from ICA applied. Larson replied that Annette Poeschel, ICA director, had requested an application and indicated she wanted someone from the board of directors to apply, but so far no applications have been received by the city.

Rosenthal suggested bringing information about the commission to freshman and sophomore orientations. He learned about the commission from a video monitor message at school.

f. Update on Hopkins School District forums

Hakensen asked if dates have been determined for these forums, which were discussed at the July 9, 2007, meeting of the community commission.

Westmoreland said a forum with Somali immigrants, related to the establishment of a Somali school at the former Katherine Curran Elementary School in Hopkins, is set for the third or fourth week of October.

A conversation about race and immigrants is set for early November. This effort is being led by Katie Lee, director of community education for the Hopkins School District, and the director of community education for the St. Louis Park School District. This event could be promoted at the Open House event in October.

Hakensen asked if any information is gathered at the annual National Night Out event. He wondered if the network of block captains could be used to gather or distribute information. Larson will check with Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst with the Minnetonka Police Department, if she would come and talk with the community commission at its next meeting.

Larson suggested to the group thinking about sponsoring a community reading effort, similar to the Minnetonka Reads activity hosted as part of the 2006 50th anniversary. The Hennepin County Library was very interested in participating in this again with the city.

Westmoreland suggested that this type of activity should commence after the first of the year, with a culmination of book discussion groups at the 2008 National Night Out event – a perfect opportunity for people to gather and discuss a book.

4. Evaluate meeting

Members agreed to meet again Monday, September 24, 2007, at 5:30 p.m.

Larson said that photos will be taken at that meeting for posting on the city's Web site, so members should dress accordingly. Also, members will determine a meeting schedule for the upcoming year.

5. Adjourn

Vanhorne moved; Robinson seconded the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacque Larson
Community Relations Manager