

**AGENDA**  
**Minnetonka Community Commission**  
Monday, October 22, 2007, 6:30 p.m.  
St. Alban's Room, Minnetonka Community Center

1. Roll Call

David Hakensen, Eduardo Jimenez, Michael Kelly, Robbie Rosenthal, Laura Stotts Gorans, Paul Thyren, Anne VanHorne, Barb Westmoreland, Courtney Wieden, Melissa Williamson-Herren

2. Discussion Items

- a. Review September 24, 2007, meeting minutes
- b. Bylaw review and approval
  - Election of vice-chair
- c. Fire Department and City-Wide Open House Recap
  - Photo contest judging
- d. Hopkins School District forums
- e. Star Tribune article results
  - Faith community event
  - The Conservatory apartments (renter information packet)
- f. Minnesota Sesquicentennial Meeting

3. Adjourn

**Minutes  
Minnetonka Community Commission  
Meeting of September 24, 2007**

**1. Roll Call**

Commission members present: David Hakensen, Eduardo Jimenez, Michael Kelly, Laura Stotts, Anne Vanhorne, Courtney Wieden, Melissa Williamson-Herren

Commission members excused: Robbie Rosenthal

Commission members absent: Barb Westmoreland

Staff: Jacque Larson

Chair Hakensen called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

**2. Discussion Items:**

**a. Review August 13, 2007 meeting minutes**

Hakensen asked commission members if they had any changes or additions to the August 13, 2007, minutes.

Kelly moved, Vanhorne seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2007, community commission meeting. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

**b. Fire Department and City-Wide Open House, Oct. 9, 5-8 p.m.**

Larson explained to commission members that the commission's booth would be positioned just outside the doors of the council chamber, where the Pachamama Band will play from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Handouts will include a brochure regarding the Minnetonka Community Commission, and the display will be of the photo contest entries. Williamson-Herren will assist with the display. Open house attendees will have the opportunity to vote for a People's Choice award for the photo contest.

To date, 19 photo contest entries have been received. Vanhorne distributed flyers to the art teacher and plans to give the other half to the photography teacher at Hopkins High School this week. Wieden also received flyers for distribution at Minnetonka High School.

Larson asked commission members to sign up for a time slot to staff the booth. Assignments are as follows:

*5 to 6 p.m.*

Courtney Wieden  
Anne Vanhorne  
Eduardo Jimenez

*6 to 7 p.m.*

Michael Kelly  
David Hakensen

*7 to 8 p.m.*

Michael Kelly  
Melissa Williamson-Herren (7:30-8 p.m.)  
David Hakensen

**c. Neighborhood Block Captains**

As a follow-up to an idea at the August 13, 2007, meeting, Larson spoke with Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst with the Minnetonka Police Department, regarding Minnetonka's neighborhood block captains and how they might assist the community commission in reaching various groups of residents.

Currently there are 165 block captains in Minnetonka. The block captains meeting annually in April at the Minnetonka Community Center.

Nelson informed Larson that state law prohibits her from sharing information identifying the block captains, but if the commission had an idea or information they'd like to share with the block captains, Nelson would be willing to serve as an intermediary.

In addition, Nelson suggested that the Police Advisory Committee might be another avenue of partnership for the community commission to explore.

**d. Update on Hopkins School District forums**

Larson had no new information on these forums, and reported she would email Westmoreland for the update.

**e. Renter Information Packet**

Jimenez explained to the commission that many renters are not aware of their rights, especially regarding claiming a tax refund for rent paid and having their rental deposits returned. He had sent information to Larson suggesting this type of information might be useful for the city to provide renters.

Larson spoke with the city's community development department, which did a little research with comparable communities. While other communities provide information to new residents regarding community services, specific information about renting is not provided.

Larson will work further with the community development department to determine how this information might be best presented to renters, and also to determine if any grant money might be available to produce the information. Jimenez will follow up with the Minnesota Department of Revenue to see if they have a booklet of some sort regarding renters' rights that the city could distribute.

**f. Bylaw discussion**

The commission reviewed the bylaws developed by the history commission to govern its rules and procedures, and agreed that a similar document would suit the purposes of the community commission. Larson will draft the bylaws and bring them to the Oct. 22, 2007, meeting, where members can vote on the bylaws. At that time a vice-chair also will be chosen.

**g. Meeting schedule for 2007 and 2008**

The meeting schedule for 2007 and 2008 was presented, and there were no objections to the dates.

**3. Adjourn**

Vanhorne moved; Robinson seconded the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacque Larson  
Community Relations Manager

BYLAWS  
MINNETONKA COMMUNITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF MINNETONKA

Article 1. General

The Minnetonka Community Commission is established under Section 140.00 of the Minnetonka City Code.

Article 2. Purpose

The Commission is appointed by the Minnetonka City Council to foster partnerships that encourage community engagement; to protect and enhance the city's appeal to residents and visitors, and serve as a support and stimulus to business; and foster civic pride and involvement in the community.

Article 3. Meetings

Section A. Meetings. Meetings of the Commission shall be held at times and places established annually by the commission. Dates of meetings will be included in the city's official calendar published on the city's Web site. All meetings will be open to the public except as otherwise provided by law.

Section B. Special Meetings. A special meeting may be held when deemed necessary by the Chair, and agreed to by four members of the Commission, including the Chair, or by the request of the City Council.

Section C. Quorums. At any regular meeting of the Commission, a majority of the appointed members will constitute a quorum.

Section D. Agendas. An agenda for each meeting will be prepared by the City Manager's office in cooperation with the Chair. The agenda will be mailed to all members of the Commission along with supporting data at least three days before the next regular meeting.

The Commission may continue consideration of any scheduled item when supportive material for that item has not been delivered to the members three full days before the meeting at which it is considered.

Section E. Member Absences. If a member is absent from four meetings within a calendar year, the Commission's Chair may submit notice to the Mayor advising him/her of these absences. Upon concurrence of the Commission, the Chair may recommend that the Mayor terminate such member from the Commission.

Article 4. Officers

Section A. Election. Officers of the commission will consist of the Chair and a Vice Chair. The officers will be elected for a one-year period at the first meeting of each year. If there is no quorum at that meeting, the election will be held at the next regular meeting having a quorum.

- 1) Chair: The Chair will preside over all meetings of the Commission. If the Chair and Vice Chair are absent, the Commission members will designate one of its members to serve as Chair.
- 2) Vice Chair: The Vice Chair will perform all the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair.
- 3) Secretary: A member of the City Manager's Office will be secretary to the Commission. The secretary will keep an accurate account of meetings and proceedings of meetings, and written notices and agendas of all meetings, send written notices and agendas of all meetings to members, keep a policy file of all Commission records and documents, and notify the City Council in writing of all Commission conclusions and recommendations.

#### Article 5. Code of Ethics

No Community Commission member will:

- Use his or her position to secure special privilege or compensation from any party.
- Take part or vote on any matter that affects his or her financial interest or those that directly benefit his or her business or profession.
- Act as a representative for any matter that comes before the Commission in which a conflict of interest exists or may exist.

#### Article 6. Parliamentary Procedure

The proceedings of the Commission shall be governed by and conducted according to the latest rules of Roberts Rules of Order, as revised.

#### Article 7. Amendments.

These bylaws may be amended or altered by a majority vote of the members of the Commission at any regular or special meeting, having a quorum, provided the amendment was mailed or delivered to the Commission members at least three days before the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Chair



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*Above: photo #3*



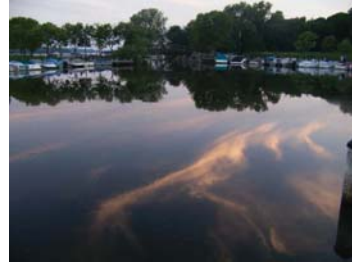
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*Above: photo #16*



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*Above: photo #18*



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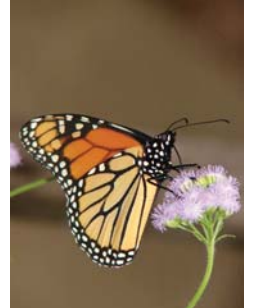
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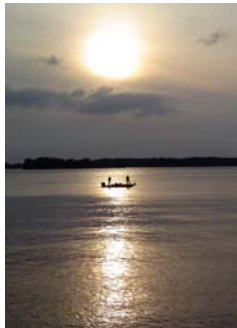
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# Cultural Compass

Hopkins St. Louis Park

## Understanding Cultures & Customs Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7:00-8:30 pm Eisenhower Community Center

This workshop is for those who work with or serve other cultural groups, or are just interested in increasing their cross-cultural competency. Learn more about the culture and customs of the African American, Hmong, Latino, Russian, and Somali Communities. Representatives will present their top insights and guidelines about their cultures that will increase your knowledge and ability to serve, work with and/or live along side each of their communities. This workshop is a joint effort of St. Louis Park and Hopkins Community Education. Call 952-988-4070 to register.

Course # 1410 Understanding Cultures & Customs:

1 session - limit 75

\$10

Tu., Nov. 13

7:00-8:30 pm

Eisenhower Community Center, Room 215E

1001 Highway 7 • Hopkins, MN 55305

"Stretch  
your cultural  
comfort zone,  
reach out,  
observe, ask,  
look for what  
we share."

### Hopkins Community Education Registration Form

Mail to: Hopkins Community Education, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins, MN 55305

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Year \_\_\_\_\_ Male  Female

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (print): \_\_\_\_\_

COURSE #	SECTION	COURSE TITLE	BEGIN DATE	TIME	FEE
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Health Plan: Ucare \_\_\_\_\_ or MHP \_\_\_\_\_ Member I.D. # \_\_\_\_\_ Discount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to Hopkins Community Education) **Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

Charge to my MasterCard  or Visa  Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Cardholder Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the form and mail or, register on our 24-Hour Hotline at 952-988-4018 or visit [www.hopkinscommunityed.org](http://www.hopkinscommunityed.org)

**StarTribune.com** | MINNEAPOLIS - ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

## **Welcome to the engaging, lively suburbs; no, really**

Active community building and academic research are proving false the stereotypes of sleepy suburbs full of recluses.

By **David Peterson**, Star Tribune

Last update: October 11, 2007 – 9:49 PM

"Quite frankly," says Mike Maguire, "suburbs take a bad rap as a bunch of people who live on cul-de-sacs and drive SUVs and don't engage with their community.

"Nothing," adds the mayor of Eagan, "is further from the truth."

It's close enough to the truth, however, that suburbs are working harder to try to create a sense of belonging -- to make a suburb more than just a staging post for a commute.

A first-ever "open house" Saturday at Burnsville City Hall is just the latest sign of a change in attitude.

Burnsville's follows a similar -- and also first-of-type -- event in Eagan this year that stunned organizers by drawing hundreds more people than they had expected.

Bloomington just launched a Parade of Schools open house for new residents.

Minnnetonka is organizing a "community commission" for the first time, aimed at bringing disparate elements of the city together.

And Golden Valley is planning a "connection crew," to match new arrivals with folks who know their way around. "We do send out packets of city information to new residents," said Cheryl Weiler, the city's communications coordinator. "But for us to create personal connections would be totally different, and much more engaging."

The burst of community-building comes at a time when the disengaged "SUVs in cul-de-sacs" image is being questioned by academic experts.

"People in suburbs do have a 'sense of community,'" said Ann Forsyth, until recently the director of the Metropolitan Design Center at the University of Minnesota. "It might be different, but it's still there."

Research emerging from Harvard, she said, is suggesting that a sense of trust is much stronger in suburbs, even as the vaunted political engagement of city folks turns out to be tied to some of the problems within cities -- and the efforts of people there to combat them.

Jack Nasar, a professor of city and regional planning at Ohio State, said his research in both conventional suburban neighborhoods and neo-traditional ones with sidewalks and shops nearby shows people "knew and visited many of their neighbors, had block gatherings, and so on -- contradicting the conventional wisdom that suburbs are cold, and that people drive home into their garage and never interact with their neighbors."

Greg Miller, whose family moved from Apple Valley to Burnsville in May, said he may turn up at the city's open house on Saturday, or may not. He said he feels he has been welcomed already, even though he lives in an area of winding streets and mature oaks without any sidewalks or front porches.

"We got information packets in a variety of forms when we moved in," he said, "including one that our neighbors organize that gave us their names and phone numbers. People stopped by to welcome us: One person brought us a plant. Some invited us over. On 'National Night Out' there were so many grills out, a clown for the kids, nametags. We met a lot of folks. You know, it's contagious: If they wave at you, you wave back."

Some cities are trying to build residents' sense of identification with the city. Golden Valley's "Envision Golden Valley" planning process yielded suggestions to mark the city's borders more clearly and encourage people to list return addresses as Golden Valley, not "Minneapolis," as many suburbanites do.

In Shoreview, city surveys suggest, people don't identify so much with the city. Sixty-three percent said their strongest connection was to their neighborhood, while 16 percent said the school district and just 15 percent the city.

When Shoreview invited dozens of local groups to its community center for a Shoreview Showcase, the results were disappointing.

"We tried it two or three times," said City Manager Terry Schwerm. "For the amount of money and time and energy we spent -- it was a few thousand dollars to put on -- and then you get 150 people here at most? It just didn't seem like we drew as many people as we should have."

It was a different story in Eagan, said Tom Garrison, the city's communications director.

"Earlier this year, for the first time, we put on an event called 'Showcase Eagan' in the civic arena. We had 50 different community groups represented, almost like a trade show, so that you could see all that was out there and that you could become a part of. We targeted mailings to new residents and apartment dwellers, who tend to feel less a part of things than others.

"Our attendance goal was 850 people. In fact, people blew the doors open: We had more than 1,300 people."

Even the mayor learned from it.

"It was an enlivening experience for me," Maguire said. "I spent most of the time going from booth to booth, just getting familiar with the number of organizations. We have a group in our community that provides Christmas and birthday gifts to people who can't afford to give them. That's a really simple thing. Another finds people who want to mentor students. Some we actually volunteered on, and others I turned to my wife and said, 'We have to write a check.'"

Staff Writers Eric Hanson and Laurie Blake also contributed to this article.

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## Welcome wagons

Last update: October 11, 2007 – 9:46 PM

What some cities are doing to create a sense of community:

**Minnetonka:** The city has formed a Community Commission to connect the faith community, businesses, seniors and young people and immigrants.

**Chaska:** The city resurrected its Commitment to Community Task Force, which will work to enhance "small-town values" and promote community.

**Brooklyn Park:** The city has programs to welcome immigrants, who make up a large proportion of new arrivals. This spring, it's hosting a class on how to take care of a home, in the hope volunteers will work with new residents who want help.

**Eagan:** A "Showcase Eagan" event, designed to acquaint new residents with community groups wishing to connect with them, drew over 1,300 people.

**Bloomington:** The school district this year launched a "parade of schools" event aimed at new residents.

Jenna Ross, Lora Pabst, Laurie Blake

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**You're invited to attend  
a Faith Networking/Information Sharing Group!**

**Learn more about -**

- **Energy Assistance Programs**
  - **Foreclosure**
  - **Reverse Mortgages**

***Guest Speaker: Scott Zemke***  
***Community Action Partnership Suburban Hennepin***

**Tuesday, October 30**  
**8:00 am**  
**Excelsior United Methodist Church**  
**840 Highway 7**  
**Excelsior, MN**

**RSVP - 952-988-5350**

***Coordinated by:***  
**Hopkins Minnetonka Family Resource Center**  
**915 Mainstreet**  
**Hopkins, MN 55343**  
**952-988-5350**

October 17, 2007

The Honorable Jan Callison  
Mayor, City of Minnetonka

Dear Mayor Callison,

Minnesota will mark its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of statehood on May 11, 2008. Communities throughout the state are joining with businesses, educational institutions and non-profit organizations to plan events and programs to recognize Minnesota's sesquicentennial throughout the coming year.

The Sesquicentennial Commission, a group created by the Legislature which includes both public members and legislators is directed to oversee the statehood celebration. Recent events under the auspices of the Commission include recognition of Minnesota's Constitution Day at the State Fair, maintaining a booth throughout the Fair, and unveiling of the design for the commemorative stamp to be issued by the U. S. Postal Service in the spring of 2008. To be issued nationwide, it features a view of the Mississippi River at Winona at dusk.

As a legislative member of the Commission I want to invite you or a representative of your community to attend the Sesquicentennial Coordinating Mini-Conference to be held on **October 24 at Roseville City Hall**. Participants may attend either a morning session from 10 A.M to noon or the afternoon session from 1 to 3 P.M.

The mini-conference will bring together representatives from communities and organizations that have already planned Sesquicentennial events; the conference, however, will present networking opportunities for new events to be planned as well.

All participants at the conference will receive a briefing on plans already in place including Statehood week activities and Plan for the Future meetings scheduled across Minnesota. Vendors from the providers of official Sesquicentennial graphics, merchandise, and banners will be on hand. The website - <http://www.mn150years.org/> - has additional information.

To RSVP for the Mini-Conference, please call Karen Rickert at 651-296-1870 or email her at [Karen@mn150years.org](mailto:Karen@mn150years.org). Feel free to contact my office if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Gen Olson  
State Senator

P.S. This past weekend marked the opening of a new Sesquicentennial exhibit – Minnesota 150 – at the Minnesota History Center. It features 150 people, places, things, and events, unique and important in Minnesota's history, selected from over 2700 nominations submitted by Minnesota citizens. I have been through it. It is well worth a visit.