

**Minutes
Minnetonka Community Commission
Meeting of November 26, 2007**

1. Roll Call

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

Commission members absent: Robbie Rosenthal

Staff: Jacque Larson

Chair Hakensen called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.

2. Discussion Items:

a. Review October 22, 2007 meeting minutes

Hakensen asked commission members if they had any changes or additions to the October 22, 2007, minutes.

Kelly moved, VanHorne seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2007, community commission meeting. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

b. Robert's Rules of Order

Larson pointed out to the group that a summary of Robert's Rules of Order was included in this meeting's packet, as commission members had asked about these procedures at the last meeting.

c. Minnesota Sesquicentennial

Larson reported that she attended an October 24, 2007, meeting at Roseville City Hall regarding the Minnesota Sesquicentennial activities. Minnesota's official sesquicentennial (150 years of statehood) date is May 11, 2008. The sesquicentennial committee is asking cities and counties to plan activities related to the 150th anniversary, then submit them to be posted on the official Web site at www.mn150years.org.

d. Photo contest presentation

The winners of the 2007 photo contest were invited to the November 5, 2007, Minnetonka City Council meeting to receive their awards. All but one recipient, Stephanie Ferguson, attended. Mayor Jan Callison presented the awards, and community commission members Barb Westmoreland and Melissa Williamson-Herren were on hand to congratulate the winners.

e. Hopkins School District forum report

Westmoreland reported that more than 90 people attended a November diversity forum co-hosted by Hopkins and St. Louis Park community education departments. She said there was a very lively discussion among participants regarding diversity. Hakensen asked the group if we should consider doing something similar in Minnetonka.

Discussion ensued about what type of event might be useful, from a diversity forum to a community-wide book read to a musical event to a photo display.

Thyren said if we were to host such an event, we need to be clear about what we are trying to accomplish.

VanHorne suggested that an event or a book club should push buttons and get people talking. She suggested we pick a book and have a forum for residents to discuss the book.

Jimenez suggested immigration has a negative connotation for many people because they don't know all the facts. He explained that Colombia recently hosted a week devoted to the art and music of different cultures – he learned that India was the largest producer of movies.

Westmoreland mentioned that at the Nov. 5 council meeting, she talked with the first-prize photo contest winner, Jeff Adrian, and he said he would love to help people learn to take photos. Westmoreland suggested a photo display to help people to tell about themselves, similar to an event hosted in St. Louis Park earlier this year.

Thyren suggested we offer multiple books to address various age groups.

Hakensen suggested everyone think of a book before meeting again in January 2008.

Williamson-Herren asked if the goal is for the community grow closer, or simply to discuss issues.

f. 2007 Annual Report

Larson presented the community commission with a draft of the 2007 annual report that is presented to the city council. The group approved of the report.

Larson also told the group that instead of excused/unexcused absences, anyone missing meetings would simply be marked as absent.

The community commission decided to move its January 28 meeting to an earlier date, and will now meet Monday, January 7, 2008.

Larson reported to the group that \$5,000 has been allotted in the budget for 2008 for activities of the Minnetonka Community Commission.

3. Adjourn

Westmoreland moved; Vanhorne seconded the motion to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacque Larson
Community Relations Manager