

Minutes
Minnetonka Community Commission
Meeting of November 24, 2008

1. Roll Call

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

Commission members absent: Suraj Kurtakoti

Staff: Jacque Larson

Chair Hakensen called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. Discussion Items

a. Review meeting minutes

Kelly moved, Kobs seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 29, 2008.

b. Staff Report

Larson answered questions that commission members had asked at the Sept. 29 meeting:

- Do city receptionists hand out welcome materials to new residents?
 - The receptionists said they rarely hand out paper packets, instead they direct new residents to the city Web site for information.
- Does the city require rental permits?
 - According to community development staff, no, the city does not require rental permits.
 - A follow-up question: Does the city fire marshal have to inspect properties used for rental?
- Does the police department hand out community resource information to people who might need out (for ex: food shelf or battered women's shelter info)
 - Yes, police officers carry information with them on patrol.

c. Minnetonka Reads logos

Commission members viewed several different logo designs submitted by a graphic designer, and chose #2, with the following modifications to be made: take away the heart on the book, and add rounded instead of jagged hands. Staff will have these

changes made, then email final logo to commission members for approval.

d. Reflections Award applications

Two nominations were received for the 2009 Reflections Award:

- Jerry Greene, EverGreene Jewelers
- Deanne Roberg, Deanne's Dance Studio

The commission members discussed each nominee in depth, and heard from some members who had personal positive experiences with either EverGreene or with Deanne's.

Commission members voted on whether or not enough quality applications had been received in order to choose one for the award. Five voted yes (Jimenez, Stotts Gorans, VanHorne, Thyren, Williamson-Herren) and two voted no (Thyren, Hakensen). Westmoreland, Kelly and Wieden excused themselves from voting due to personal interactions with the nominees.

Members then voted on which nominee should receive the award, with four voting for EverGreene (Williamson-Herren, Thyren, VanHorne and Stotts Gorans); one voting for Deanne's (Jimenez); and two abstaining (Kobs, Hakensen). Westmoreland, Kelly and Wieden recused themselves from voting due to personal interactions with the nominees.

Staff will contact EverGreene Jewelers to arrange a council meeting date at which to receive the award, and will inform the commission members of the award presentation date.

e. Minnetonka History Commission

Staff explained that the Minnetonka History Commission had voted at a recent meeting to reorganize history activities, which includes repealing the ordinance that created the history commission itself. Staff said that a person with a particular interest in history – most likely Betty Johnson, official city historian – would be joining the community commission to ensure that the historical aspect of the city's heritage is remembered. In addition, the community commission would be asked to take on the Landmark Designation program, previously handled by the commission. The proposal will be heard by the city council in December, after which staff will have more information for the commission.

f. 2009

Staff said that six commission members would be re-appointed for a second term: David Hakensen, Paul Thyren, Anne VanHorne,

Barb Westmoreland, Courtney Wieden and Melissa Williamson-Herren.

Staff asked commission members for ideas for 2009 goals to be included in the 2008 annual report to the city council, which details the community commission activities over the past year and outlines its plan for the future year.

The following suggestions were received:

- Hold a joint session with the city council to report on what the community commission has accomplished (where we're at, where we're going).
- Invite members of fraternal organizations to visit and talk about their needs.
- Consider the possibility of starting a community foundation, similar to what other cities like Plymouth, Eden Prairie, and Wayzata have. The foundation would raise and give money to community organizations.
- Invite representatives of the three school districts to visit.
- Revise churches. Send a letter to each church from the commission asking about their outreach in the community. Ask how they contribute to Minnetonka specifically.
- Identify what social nonprofit groups are present in Minnetonka.
- Connect with a rental group.

Thyren stated that he wants to address community needs tangibly and allow commission members to wrap themselves emotionally around things. He needs the satisfaction of helping someone make a difference to someone else.

Jimenez said he is still very interested in creating a welcome packet for rental communities.

3. Adjourn

VanHorne moved; Stotts Gorans seconded the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacque Larson
Community Relations Manager