

Minutes
Minnetonka Community Commission
Meeting of January 25, 2010

1. Roll Call

Commission members present: Paul Ansolabehere, Betty Johnson, Marli Komarek, Paul Thyren, Barb Westmoreland

Commission members absent: David Hakensen, Michael Kelly, Melissa Williamson-Herren

Staff: Jacque Larson

In the absence of Chair David Hakensen and Vice-Chair Melissa Williamson-Herren, Paul Ansolabehere volunteered to chair the meeting. Ansolabehere called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

2. Discussion Items

A. Commission Member Update

- New member introduction
Marli Komarek introduced herself and told commission members a little about herself and why she was interested in the commission.

Larson asked commission members to attend the February 8 council meeting, if possible, where former commission members Eduardo Jimenez and Paul Kobs will be recognized for their service.

B. Meeting Minutes: November 30, 2009

Thyren moved, Johnson seconded, all voted to accept the minutes of November 30, 2009, as written

C. Report from Commission Members

Westmoreland reported that the 12th annual Empty Bowls fundraiser for local food shelves is Tuesday, March 16, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Hopkins Center for the Arts, 1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins. This year's fundraising goal is \$60,000, with proceeds benefitting ICA Foodshelf and ResourceWest.

Westmoreland described opportunities to go and make bowls for the event, including an event February 19 at Hopkins High School. Interested commission members are invited to contact Barb for more information at barb_westmoreland@hopkins.k12.mn.us.

Johnson reported that she was contacted by a neighborhood publication for history of the Mills Shoppe. Johnson understood that the company producing the publication serves a number of communities in Minnetonka.

Larson reported these neighborhood publications are run by Neighborhood Communications LLC and serve a number of neighborhood associations in the city. She said she is in regular contact with the editors to provide city information for their newsletters. The company sells advertising in the newsletter to support the editorial, print and mailing costs.

Ansolabehere said perhaps this would be resource for neighborhoods to be referred to if they are interested in starting a neighborhood newsletter.

Johnson also reported she would be providing a short history presentation of Minnetonka at the first 2010 Citizen Academy session Tuesday, February 9. Ansolabehere suggested that her presentation be videotaped. Larson said all of the Citizen Academy sessions are taped. Johnson said it had been suggested in the past that she be interviewed for an oral history, but it had not happened.

D. Neighborhood Initiative Update

Johnson suggested the goal of this program is to create a small town feel. She said she is hearing that the new Trader Joe's store at Westridge Market is becoming a community gathering place.

This topic will be added to the February 22 meeting for further discussion. Prior to that, results of the electronic survey sent out last summer to the Neighborhood Watch captains will be distributed to commission members so they can review the results and be prepared to discuss how the commission might use those results for this program.

E. Kids' Fest

Larson reported that Hennepin County Library will have a display at Kids' Fest, and that the Minnetonka Library is very interested in continuing its reading collaboration with the city.

Johnson thought it might be okay if the reading collaboration is skipped this year and is picked up again next year.

Ansolabehere related how much Boy Scouts like listening to his father read books, and thought there might be a way to do a story hour type activity at the farmers' market this summer.

F. Final 2010 Annual Report

Members reviewed the final document that was submitted to council. Johnson asked if an excused absence meant that the person had called staff to report they would be gone – Larson confirmed that was true. Johnson asked if the special events were figured into the percentages meetings attended, and they are part of the final figure.

G. Reflections Award Criteria Review

Due to the absence of several members, this topic was delayed until the February 22 meeting.

3. Adjourn

Komarek moved, Westmoreland seconded the motion to adjourn. Meeting concluded at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacque Larson
Community Relations Manager