

**Minutes
Minnetonka Community Commission
Meeting of August 23, 2010**

1. Roll Call

Commission members present: Paul Ansolabehere, David Hakensen, Betty Johnson, Michael Kelly, Heather Odland, Melissa Williamson-Herren

Commission members absent: Marli Komarek, Lucie Taylor, Paul Thyren, Barb Westmoreland

Staff: Jacque Larson

Chair Hakensen called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Guest Connor Johnson was welcomed to the meeting. Johnson, a Minnetonka High School senior, was sitting in on a public meeting to fulfill a requirement for Boy Scouts.

2. Discussion Items

A. Approval of May 24, 2010, minutes

Kelly moved, Williamson-Herren seconded, all voted to accept the minutes of May 24, 2010, as written.

B. Report from Commission Members/Staff

Johnson reported that Theresa Quam recently passed away, another piece of Minnetonka's history gone. Hakensen asked if Johnson had conducted an oral history/interview of Theresa. Johnson said she had not, but has one of her husband, Ernie Quam, and that some of Theresa's comments might have been included in that oral history.

Ansolabehere reported he has attended three Music in the Park performances, each one better than the last. He has also attended the farmers' market beforehand on several occasions.

He also reported that he and his wife attended six Night for Neighbors neighborhood parties on August 3 and described the night as "truly phenomenal." Most comments he heard from attendees were that they were truly grateful for the support from the city. The neighborhood party organizers really liked the gift packs they received from the city. Ansolabehere thought these are a wonderful tool for communications, if the commission has something they want to share with these neighborhood groups.

Williamson-Herren reported that she helped kids produce about 300 spin art pictures at June Burwell House Ice Cream Social. She said the

comments she had heard indicated the event's craft fair was well-received and was a better fit than the fine arts fair. She also shared information with the commission on an upcoming show at her gallery featuring work from five artists in recovery

C. Sponsorship Update

Larson reported that about \$3,500 in free advertising was provided to the city by the Sun Newspapers. The advertising was placed for Summer Festival race registration and publicizing the Ice Cream Social and Summer Festival. In return, Sun Newspapers was identified in promotional materials at the official media partner of the Summer Festival.

Larson also reported that local State Farm Insurance agent Tracy Taylor and his staff donated volunteer time to the ice cream social, which was much appreciated.

D. Open House: October 5, 5-8 p.m.

The commission agreed the best way to display the photos is on the wall in the community center, so that visitors can view all of them and make a selection for the People's Choice Awards. Commission members will help staff put up the photos prior to the event.

Due to the volume of photos received for the contest, commission members were also open to city staff, along with a commission member, taking a first pass through the photo contest entries. The top photos will then be presented to the whole commission to select a first-, second- and third-place winner.

E. 2010 Goals/Progress

- *Continue to work on the neighborhood initiative program*
Since the recent residential survey indicated the majority of residents weren't interested in more neighborhood activities, the commission agreed to continue publicizing opportunities wherever possible, but would not aggressively pursue organization of neighborhoods. Opportunities include passing information out at the farmers' market info booth, at Open House and in the 2011 Night for Neighbors gift bags.

- *Revise criteria for the Reflections Award and for the Community Action Recognition (CAR) award*

After much discussion, the commission agreed that where they really needed guidance with the Reflections Award was in having some process to the award selection, rather than revising the criteria for nominators. Staff will rewrite the Reflections Award information and also provide some written guidance for award selection. This might

include discussion questions for the commission to consider for each candidate.

- Maintain a presence by the Minnetonka Community Commission at various city events

The community commission will be represented at the farmers' market by neighborhood program brochures at the information booth. Community commission members will be at the Open House for the photo contest on October 5.

F. Community Needs/Issues Group

Hakensen explained that a senior center group has formed a community needs and issues group that has hosted one forum on health care and has another planned regarding the changing economy and demographics of Minnesota. He thought the community commission should approach this group about partnering on another event.

Ansolabehere mentioned several ideas for a community event, including war veterans telling their stories, a job support group or a presentation on Minnetonka history.

Odland suggested that an event featuring Korean War veterans might be timely, considering the 50th anniversary of that war is approaching.

Larson will contact the leadership of the Community Needs/Issues Groups to gauge interest in a partnership with the commission.

G. Next meeting: September 27, 2010

3. Adjourn

Ansolabehere moved, Odland seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacque Larson
Community Relations Manager