

**AGENDA**  
**Minnetonka Community Commission**  
Monday, October 25, 2010, 6:30 p.m.  
Shady Oak Room  
Minnetonka City Hall

**Special note:** Please meet at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers for the presentation of photo contest awards. After the awards presentation, commission members will move to the Shady Oak Room and call the regular meeting to order.

1. Roll Call  
Paul Ansolabehere, Priscille Biehlmann, David Hakensen (chair), Betty Johnson, Michael Kelly, Marli Komarek, Heather Odland (vice-chair), David Simon, Lucie Taylor, Paul Thyren, Barb Westmoreland, Melissa Williamson-Herren
  
2. Discussion Items
  - A. Introductions
  
  - B. Approval of Minutes
    - August 23, 2010
    - September 27, 2010
  
  - C. Term expirations
  
  - D. Reports
    - Commission Members
    - Staff
      - Community Needs & Issues Group
      - Patch.com
  
  - E. Photo contest calendar
  
  - F. Next meeting: Monday, November 29, 2010
    - 2010 Annual Report
    - 2011 Goals
  
3. Adjourn

**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 50<sup>th</sup> 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

**Minutes  
Minnetonka Community Commission  
Meeting of September 27, 2010**

**1. Roll Call**

Commission members present: Priscille Biehlmann, David Hakensen (chair), Betty Johnson, David Simon, Melissa Williamson-Herren

Commission members absent: Paul Ansolabehere, Michael Kelly, Marli Komarek, Heather Odland (vice chair), Lucie Taylor, Paul Thyren, Barb Westmoreland

Staff: Jacque Larson

Chair Hakensen called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**2. Discussion Items**

**A. Welcome New Members**

New members Priscille Biehlmann and David Simon introduced themselves. Biehlmann is a junior at Hopkins High School and a member of the tennis team. She also volunteers at a local women's shelter. Simon teaches at the University of Minnesota Law School and recently started a poverty law clinic in Minneapolis.

**B. Approval of August 23, 2010, minutes**

There was no quorum so minutes could not be approved. This item will be placed on the October 25 meeting agenda.

**C. Report from Commission Members/Staff**

**D. Photo contest judging**

The commission members present studied the more than 200 entries submitted for the photo contest. Each member chose several favorites, then shared them with the group. From there the committee chose the following winners:

- First Place: Anne Groton, "Water to Ice"
- Second Place: Eric Raarup, "The Last Day of Summer"
- Third Place: Doug Hohertz, "Star Gazing Tree Frog"
- Judges' Choice-Lifestyle Minnetonka: Brant Buchika, "Minnehaha Creek Nature Fairy"
- Judges' Choice-Natural Minnetonka: Tom Anderson, "Boulders in the Creek"
- Judges' Choice-Wild Minnetonka: Shannon Quinn, "What a Hoot"

Honorable Mentions included:

- Pieper Abernathy, "Happy Family 2"
- Erik Ahlquist, "Spider Web"
- Tom Anderson, "Deer Crossing Road"
- Mercedes Arnold, "Taking the Plunge"
- Kim Flemmer, "Garden Friend"
- Jane Fox, "Backyard Surprise"
- Tim Howe, "Friends Meeting for Breakfast"
- Christine Petersen, "Jidana Sunset"
- Jess Quiner, "Saturneid on My Patio"
- Judy Winterhalter, "Mother's Gone, But Life Goes On"

The people's choice award will be chosen by Open House participants October 5.

**E. Open House: October 5, 5-8 p.m.**

- **Staffing**

Commission members volunteered for time slots to staff the photo contest and commission booth at the October 5 open house event.

**F. Next meeting: October 25, 2010**

**3. Adjourn**

Meeting concluded at 7:42 p.m. No quorum, so no motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacque Larson  
Community Relations Manager