

**Minutes  
Minnetonka Community Commission  
Meeting of October 25, 2010**

Note: The commission first gathered at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers for the city council's presentation of the 2010 photo contest awards, then convened in the Shady Oak Room for the regular meeting.

**1. Roll Call**

Commission members present: Paul Ansolabehere, Priscille Biehlmann, David Hakensen (chair), Betty Johnson, Michael Kelly, Heather Odland (vice chair), David Simon, Lucie Taylor, Paul Thyren, Barb Westmoreland  
Melissa Williamson-Herren

Commission members absent: Marli Komarek

Staff: Jacque Larson

Chair Hakensen called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

**2. Discussion Items**

**A. Introductions**

Commission members went around the table and introduced themselves by name.

**B. Approval of Minutes**

Ansolabehere moved, Williamson-Herren seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented for August 23 and September 27, 2010. All voted in favor.

**C. Term expirations**

Larson stated that the commission terms for Paul Thyren, Barb Westmoreland, Melissa Williamson-Herren, David Hakensen and Marli Komarek expire January 31, 2011. Komarek has indicated she would like to be re-appointed.

Hakensen said he thought this was a good time to move on and turn over leadership of the commission to someone else. Westmoreland is working on finding someone else to apply for the commission who can represent Hopkins Schools. Thyren said attendance has been an issue for him, based on the work that he does. He plans to keep in touch with the commission.

**D. Reports**

Simon talked about a person from the city who visited his wife and newborn. He thought it was a great service and wanted to know more about what the community does regarding public health-related issues.

Kelly saw an item in the news about a new commission in Minneapolis that welcomes new residents with a small gift. The program is not funded by a lot of money, but is a good outreach model.

Johnson mentioned that there used to be a newcomer's club in town. Ansolabehere thought it would be a project to get a business to underwrite. Johnson suggested Target, Cub, Ridgedale or small businesses.

Kelly will find the item and send it to staff. Simon thought it would be nice for someone visited new residents, especially low-income or poor residents and talk about access to public transportation, public libraries and programs for kids.

Ansolabehere suggested providing printed screen shots of the city's website for those without computers.

Johnson said that she is giving a history talk for city employees on December 7 as part of staff training. She also wanted everyone to know that longtime resident and city "watchdog" Eleanor Berscheit had recently passed away.

Larson told the commission about Patch.com, a new online news site that will be launched for Minnetonka in early December. Kelly and Williamson-Herren had heard of Patch.com through contact with ad salespeople.

Larson also talked about Community Days of Service, scheduled this year for Sunday, May 22.

Taylor reported that the Ridgedale Library and the Friends of the Ridgedale Library are interested in working with the commission on a reading initiative, probably for fall 2011 or spring 2012. It was suggested perhaps this program could take place every two or three years.

Simon suggested an essay contest to go along with the reading program, perhaps focusing on the American Dream or democracy.

Olson wanted the commission to consider how we reach all of the students in the community, including private school students, and judge the entries fairly.

**E. Photo contest calendar**

Taylor did a lot of working getting quotes and information for printing a photo contest calendar. It was suggested that perhaps a limited edition run of 300-500 calendars would be a good idea for the first year. Olson suggested working with Target and Supervalu to sell them, but it would be important to have a prototype for companies to see. Olson also asked about advertising the calendars in the city utility bills.

Ansolabehere moved and Johnson seconded a motion to pursue the development of a photo calendar for 2011.

**F. Next meeting: November 29, 2010**

**3. Adjourn**

Thyren moved, Kelly seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacque Larson  
Community Relations Manager