

Minutes
Minnetonka Community Commission
Meeting of November 29, 2010

1. Roll Call

Commission members present: Priscille Biehlmann, David Hakensen (chair), Betty Johnson, Michael Kelly, Marli Komarek, David Simon, Lucie Taylor, Barb Westmoreland Melissa Williamson-Herren

Commission members absent: Paul Ansolabehere, Heather Odland, Paul Thyren

Guest: Larry Kennebeck

Staff: Jacque Larson

Chair Hakensen was late to the meeting and Vice-Chair Odland was absent, so Williamson-Herren called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

2. Discussion Items

A. Introductions

Guest Larry Kennebeck introduced himself as representing the senior center's Community Needs and Issues (CNI) group. He said he was at the meeting to find out if the commission and the CNI group are duplicating efforts.

Commission members introduced themselves. Larson gave Kennebeck a brief overview of the history and accomplishments of the community commission.

B. Approval of Minutes

Taylor moved, Kelly seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented for October 25, 2010. All voted in favor.

C. Commission Member Check-In

Johnson told the commission that the Minnetonka Historical Society recently found a scrapbook maintained by Dana Frear, who was very involved in recording the city's history. Johnson has been enjoying reading through the scrapbook and related a few of the stories she's found.

Taylor said she was very appreciative of all the snowplowing that was done by the city during the recent storms.

D. Year-End Wrap-Up

Members reviewed the 2010 annual report and were satisfied with the goals set forth for 2011.

E. Reflections Awards nominations

The Minnetonka Community Commission reviewed this year's applications and chose three co-winners for the 2011 awards.

- *Judy Elling*, executive director of Resource West, and *Cathy Maes*, executive director of ICA Foodshelf, who were jointly nominated;
- *Jean McSwiggen*, Minnetonka Senior Services volunteer; and
- *Ruth Stricker*, founder and owner of The Marsh: A Center for Balance and Fitness.

Judy Elling and Cathy Maes

Judy Elling and Cathy Maes were jointly nominated for a Reflections Award because of the extensive cooperation between their two organizations on behalf of residents needing food, financial support and other resources.

Nominator Katie Williams, director of community education for Hopkins Schools, wrote, "As new executive directors, Judy Elling and Cathy Maes have brought the strengths of their respective organizations to a higher level of collaboration to benefit the residents of the greater Minnetonka community."

In her supporting letter for the nomination, Shirley Buehler, special projects coordinator for the ICA Foodshelf, said, "It takes a special breed...to make these organizations successful as they are. Both Judy and Cathy reflect vibrant personalities, superior character and sincere dedication."

Jean McSwiggen

Volunteer Jean McSwiggen has led the Minnetonka Senior Center exercise program three times a week, one hour per day, for the past 26 years. The daily average is 75 participants, with 178 people total participating in the exercise class, making it the largest of its kind among all Minnesota senior centers.

In a letter supporting the nomination, Minnetonka Senior Center Advisory Board President Bev Montgomery wrote, "The board felt Jean was very deserving of this recognition...based on her amazing dedication and longevity as a volunteer leading this group, during her retirement years. Our exercise group would not be what it is today without her longtime commitment to volunteer leadership of this group."

Ruth Stricker

In their nomination, members and staff of The Marsh wrote, "In 1985, Ruth Stricker founded The Marsh, A Center for Balance and Fitness. As the visionary, developer and owner of this unique community institution, she has brought national and international attention to the city of Minnetonka while serving residents."

Supporter Curt Paulsen, Ph.D., wrote: "...Ruth Stricker embodies highly developed personal traits that have carried her big dreams to fruition: intelligence, imagination, innovation, production, perseverance, the strength to sometimes stand alone, discipline, conviction and a desire to challenge and facilitate people to become fully developed as whole persons."

Supporter Yin Simpson wrote, "Ruth's vision and inspiration, present at The Marsh and through The Marsh's professional trainers, increases my energy and capacity to return more back to my community as well."

Two nominees were selected to receive honorable mentions:

West Suburban Teen Clinic (WSTC), a nonprofit organization that provides basic medical care, reproductive health care and education, and mental health counseling to young people in western Hennepin, Carver and Scott counties. In 2009, WSTC's education team reached 2,000 parents, educated 18,000 students, visited 75 different schools, and provided small group education sessions to more than 150 at-risk youth.

Tour de Tonka, an annual Minnetonka Community Education bicycle ride through Lake Minnetonka communities for cyclists of all ages, promotes and celebrates healthy lifestyles, friendship, teamwork and recreation through the collaboration of cities, sponsors, local charities and hundreds of volunteers. In just five years, there have been more than 8,000 riders –with nearly \$3,000 raised in 2010 for the ICA Foodshelf.

The winners will be recognized at the January 10, 2011, city council meeting. Community commission members are encouraged to attend.

F. Next meeting: January 24, 2010

3. Adjourn

Taylor moved, Simon seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacque Larson
Community Relations Manager