

AGENDA
Minnetonka Community Commission
Monday, January 24, 2011, 6:30 p.m.
Shady Oak Room
Minnetonka City Hall

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. Approval of Minutes
 - November 29, 2010

 - B. Election of 2011 officers (chair and vice chair)

 - C. Commission member check-in

 - D. 2010 Annual Report

 - E. 2011 Meeting Schedule

 - F. Community Days of Service

 - G. Upcoming projects:
 - Calendar
 - Community Read

 - H. Recognition of outgoing commission members: Jan. 31, 6:30 p.m.

 - I. Next meeting: February 28, 6:30 p.m.

3. Adjourn

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

2010 Annual Report Community Commission

Mission

The community commission was established by the Minnetonka City Council with the primary responsibility of fostering partnerships that encourage community engagement.

Membership

To the extent possible, the commission includes representatives of local school districts, the business community, youth (under 18), community and faith organizations, the rental community, and ethnic/immigrant populations. Each member serves a two-year term.

David Hakensen served as chair and Heather Odland as vice chair. Odland joined the commission in March, while Lucie Taylor joined in May and Priscille Biehlmann and David Simon joined the commission in September.

Four members will leave the commission at the end of January 2011: David Hakensen, Paul Thyren, Barb Westmoreland and Melissa Williamson-Herren. New members are being invited to apply through the regular boards and commissions application process.

2010 Attendance Schedule

Member	Jan	Feb	Mar	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	%Meetings attended		
Ansolabehere	Y	Y	E	Y	No meeting	No meeting	Y	E	Y	E	63%		
Biehlmann										Y	Y	Y	100%
Hakensen	E	Y	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y	Y	88%
Johnson	Y	E	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y	Y	88%
Kelly	E	Y	Y	Y					Y	E	Y	Y	75%
Komarek	Y	Y	E	Y					E	E	E	Y	50%
Odland			Y	Y					Y	E	Y	E	67%
Simon										Y	Y	Y	100%
Taylor				E					E	E	Y	Y	40%
Thyren	Y	Y	E	E					E	E	Y	E	38%
Westmoreland	Y	E	Y	Y					E	E	Y	Y	63%
Williamson-Herren	E	E	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y	Y	75%

Y = Present; E = Excused; U = Unexcused; T = Term Expired; R = Resigned

Highlights of the Past Year

- Commission members actively encouraged and sought out nominations for the 2011 Reflections Awards, resulting in the widest applicant pool in recent years. The commission discussed the Reflections Award criteria and review process and decided to keep the application process the same, but spend more time asking questions and evaluating the applications. Three very worthy co-winners were selected this year, representing the non-profit, business and volunteer community.

- The commission selected winners from more than 200 entries for the 2010 photo contest. Commission members staffed the people's choice award booth and photo display at the 2010 Open House. Based on suggestion from a photo contest participant, the commission discussed and voted to pursue publishing and selling a 2012 photo contest calendar in the fall of 2011.
- Members actively participated in many city events, including the Burwell House Ice Cream Social, Night for Neighbors and Open House.
- Since the 2010 residential survey indicated 83% 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 and at Open House.
- The commission is in discussion with Ridgedale Library about hosting the Minnetonka Reads program again in fall 2011 or spring 2012.
- The commission met with a representative of the senior center's Community Needs and Issues groups and plans to explore ways to collaborate with this group on community presentations in the future.
- The commission plans to assist wherever possible with the Community Days of Caring event for 2011, hosted by area churches.

Goals

The commission's goals for 2011 are to:

1. Create, publish and sell a 2012 photo calendar using the photos from past city photo contests in order to promote a sense of community.
2. Work with Hennepin County Library staff to offer a Minnetonka Reading initiative in 2011 or 2012.
3. Publicize and encourage more participation in the Community Action Recognition award program.

Minnetonka Community Commission 2011 Meetings and Special Events

Regular Meetings

6:30 p.m., Shady Oak Room

- January 24
- February 28
- March 28
- April 25
- May 23
- July 25
- August 22
- September 26
- October 24
- November 28

Special Events

The commission has no special role except at the Open House for the photo contest.

- Kids' Fest
Sunday, Feb. 13, 1-5 p.m.
- Burwell House Ice Cream Social/Summer Festival
Saturday, June 25
- Minnetonka Farmers' Market
Tuesdays, July 5-Sept. 27, 3-7 p.m.
- Minnetonka Night for Neighbors
Tuesday, August 2
- Open House
Tuesday, October 11, 5-8 p.m.