

**Minutes**  
**Minnetonka History Commission**  
**Meeting of March 19, 2007**

**1. Roll Call**

Commission members present: DeeAnn Bloom, Jenna Burfeind, Betty Johnson, Joe Van Sloun

Commission members excused: Joan George, David Olson

Staff: Laura Ronbeck, Jacque Larson

Chair Van Sloun called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m

**2. Discussion Items:**

**a. Minutes**

Johnson moved, Bloom seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2007, community heritage commission meeting. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

**b. History commission reappointments**

Johnson, Olson, and Van Sloun were re-appointed to two year terms. Hassig choose not to seek re-appointment and Hakensen will chair the new community commission.

**c. Sheila Wilson donation**

Shelia Wilson, a high school student, donated her Girl Scout Gold Award project to the city. The project was a creation of a model 1894 vegetable/herb garden. Also included with the project was a book describing uses of the various plants and a set of cards with questions and answers about the garden. Staff is excited about the donation and feels it will add needed information to the Burwell tours.

Sheila will be presenting her project to the council on March 26<sup>th</sup>. She will also be awarded a CAR award for the project.

**d. Burwell House update**

- Marketing

Staff has worked with a graphic designer on a Burwell brochure that can be put in hotels, and various places. The commission decided that they like the brochure in the more sepia type of tones.

- Employee tours

Staff arranged for a number of staff members to go on a guided Burwell tour. Members on the tour were very impressed with the house and were considering additional ways to have additional employee tours. One of the tour members has booked a meeting and tour of the house for April 11<sup>th</sup>. The commission also suggested offering a tour as part of the 2008 citizen academy.

- Tour guides

There was an article in the March 2007 Minnetonka Memo advertising for tour guides. Ronbeck reported that she'd mailed out information to about a dozen people.

e. **Kids Fest Recap**

Very few people participated in the activity between 1 and 2 p.m. Staff suggested that the hours of the Valentine activity next year be changed to 1:30-4:30. The commission concurred.

f. **Art Fair Update**

Staff has met twice with Melissa and Ken Herren at Your Art's desire to discuss plans for an art fair at the Ice Cream Social. Staff is proposing a juried art fair that will be located in the pasture area at Burwell. Based on square footage, staff is suggesting up to thirty vendors. An article will be put in the Memo, schools will be contacted, and Melissa and Ken will be contacting some of the artists that are exhibited in their shop.

If an inadequate number of applications are submitted, or the art is not of a quality nature – staff will cancel the fair for this year and start earlier on next year's.

g. **Ice Cream Social update**

Staff has met with Terry Mulhern, who has once again agreed to run the food booth. Vendors, entertainers, and the parking facilities have all been contacted. Ronbeck will arrange a meeting with the society and Van Sloun to discuss the antique market and other details.

h. **Historical marker signs**

The commission suggested the following areas for historical signs:

- Lone Lake Park

- o It was noted that there is a marker here, but it is in very poor physical condition.

- Glen Lake Sanitarium

- o There is historic signage in the club house, however it is in a back corner. It was suggested

that staff contact Three Rivers Park to see if it could be placed in a more prominent spot – possibly outside of the door.

- Purgatory/Junctions parks
  - o Information on the street cars
  - o At Purgatory there could also be information about the springs
- Groveland
  - o Discussion about where to put signage
  - o Possible solutions would be Gro-Tonka park or on the garage that belonged to Ty Abel
- Glen Lake
  - o Locate at the plaza that is being re-done
- Big Willow/ St. Albans
  - o Information on house foundation
  - o Possibly rail line
- Old Town Hall
- Oak Knoll area
  - o Signage at Westridge Pavillion
- Highpoint
  - o Highest point in Hennepin county
- Mills Park
  - o Gazebo
  - o Check to see if current sign has information about American Indians
- 7-Hi area
- Post-WW II residential

From this list the commission suggested the following as priorities:

Glen Lake  
Glen Lake Sanitarium  
High Point (add elevation to existing street sign)  
Big Willow  
Purgatory  
Oak Knoll

The commission also suggested keeping a consistent look between the signs. Staff suggested that the signs should not be about just the site, but the area it represented. The commission concurred.

The commission expressed their appreciation to the council for allocating funding for the signs. The commission has advocated for this signage for many years.

- i. **Suggested items for joint meeting with MHS**  
The following topics will be discussed:

- Art Fair
- Sales times for antique market
- Role of the history commission and the community commission

Staff suggested changing the date to April 30<sup>th</sup> due to the boards and commissions dinner and a staff conflict due to jury duty.

- j. **Check-in on 2007 goals**
- Additional programming/outreach at Burwell
    - Employee tours
    - Development of brochure
  - Participate in planning of expansion of Burwell Park and the Comprehensive Review Plan
    - The commission will participate in the volunteer dinner/input into comprehensive plan meeting
  - Identify sites for historic markers
    - The commission had identified where the markers should be placed. Staff will bring further information back to the commission.
  - Video tape Betty Johnson's history presentation.
    - Johnson is working on updating the presentation. Staff will arrange for it to be taped.
- k. **April 18 boards and commissions dinner**  
Staff encouraged all commission members to attend.

**4. Meeting evaluation/set next agenda**

The meeting was very productive.

Future agenda items:

- a. Focus on history in Minnetonka (other than Burwell)
- b. Burwell Use Policy

**5. Adjournment**

Bloom moved, Burfeind seconded a motion to adjourn. All voted "yes."  
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Ronbeck  
Administrative Projects Specialist