

Minutes
Joint Meeting of the Minnetonka History Commission and the Minnetonka
Historical Society
Meeting of May 21, 2007

1. Roll Call

Commission members present: Dee Ann Bloom, Jenna Burfeind, Joan George, Betty Johnson, David Olson, Joe Van Sloun

MHS members present: Florence Bogle, Chuck Donley, Lorena Hooyman, Barbara Mattill, Phyllis Mattill, Dorothy Welch, (Van Sloun)

MHS members excused: Jim Whisler

MHS members absent: John Evans, Bill Jepson

Staff: Jacque Larson, Laura Ronbeck

Chair Van Sloun called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

2. Discussion items

a. **Minutes of the March 19, 2007 commission meeting**

Bloom moved, Burfeind seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2007 community heritage commission meeting. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

b. **Report from Minnetonka Historical Society**

Donley reported the following:

- John Breyfogle has resigned as society president and from the society board
- Donley is acting president
- A new president will be elected in the fall
- The society has had a successful year
 - Treasury balance is up 10%
 - The Victorian Tea in December had over 200 in attendance
 - The spring meeting featured a presentation by Fred Hanus
 - Book sales have reached the break even point

c. **Report from the Minnetonka History Commission**

- Explanation of new Minnetonka Community commission and modified Minnetonka History Commission
 - Welch questioned why the change took place. Van Sloun explained how the community commission had evolved from the 50th Anniversary committee and the process involved in creating the two commissions. He explained that the focus of

the community commission would be building community and creating partnerships. The focus of the history commission would be primarily history.

- Recent projects

- School tours

Ronbeck reported that 75-90 students from Glen Lake School had toured the Burwell site. Gatewood School and St. Therese school are also planning on attending the site this spring. Inquiries have been received from Alice Smith, and Eisenhower schools. One of the new tour guides is also going to contact Groveland School. Ronbeck said that these additional schools will require more help and invited the society to become involved in this project.

- Both Gayle Andrs and Betty Johnson have been video taped giving their talks to the schools.

- Marketing brochure

Larson distributed the draft of the new marketing brochure. Larson and Ronbeck will be distributing the brochures to hotels, libraries, antique markets, etc.

- Art Fair

Larson reported that to date an insufficient number of applications have been received to go forward with the fair. The application deadline has been extended.

- Historical Markers

Van Sloun referred the group to pages 2-3 of the March 19, 2007 minutes. The proposed areas for signage were listed.

d. Future joint meetings of the History Commission and Historical Society

- There will be a potluck picnic in July. A sign up sheet was passed around.

- An additional joint meeting will be scheduled in November to discuss goals for 2008.

e. Burwell House

- Tour guide training

Ronbeck passed around the new manual she has developed for the tour guides. She reported that the May 19th training went very well, and that the new guides were very enthusiastic.

- A severe weather protocol has been established. The city will purchase weather radios.

- Planned repairs and maintenance to the Burwell site

Staff met with Mark Jones regarding the replacement of the porch stairs and porch painting. Mark is putting together an estimate for

the repairs, painting, and washing of the house.

- Furnishings

Marble tops have been purchased for a table and fern stand. An organ stool has been purchased and reupholstered. Curtains have been made and installed in the upstairs hallway and tower room.

- Historical Society

- Display

The society has several ideas for a display such as the Groveland cemetery and the Minnetonka trolley line.

The display will be up for the ice cream social. Ronbeck requested that next year the museum and display be ready by May 1st. The city is planning on opening the house for tours in May and school groups would like to tour the museum.

- Records

Ronbeck proposed using the trunk closet in the house for storage of society records. The space is climate controlled and more easily accessible for the society. The city would have public works move the records out of the vault at city hall and to the Burwell House. The society agreed that this would be acceptable.

- Furniture factory chair

Ronbeck had heard that one or more of the chairs in the ice house were from the furniture factory. The society could not confirm this.

- Insurance form

Larson requested that the society update its insurance form to reflect the correct contact person. Donley said he would take care of this.

f. Burwell Ice Cream Social

- Antique market

Donley said that applications for the market were down this year. Some vendors had expressed displeasure with the new start time. Staff reminded the group that one of the purposes of the social was to raise funds for the Burwell House. It was suggested that if the early start time were reinstated, concessions such as coffee and rolls could be sold.

g. Other Business

- Hooyman suggested that the senior center offer another bus tour of the city, narrated by Betty Johnson. Johnson said it was being planned for next year. This year she is doing a presentation for the seniors at the Burwell House on August 8th.

- Johnson had seen a sundial in the museum that was donated in memory of Charlotte Chope. She felt it was related to the history of city government and should be in the courtyard at the city. Staff will research this.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Ronbeck
Administrative Projects Specialist