Agenda

City of Minnetonka

Study Session

Monday, February 23, 2015

6:30 p.m.

The Minnehaha Room

1. Emergency Management for Elected Officials
2. Emergency Procedures Review
3. Preferences and Perceptions of Minnetonka
4. Update of Village Center Studies
5. Adjournment
6. Study session summary January 12, 2015

The purpose of a study session is to allow the city council to discuss matters informally and in greater detail than permitted at formal council meetings. While all meetings of the council are open to the public, study session discussions are generally limited to the council, staff and consultants.
City Council Study Session Item #1  
Meeting of February 23, 2015

**Brief Description:** Emergency Management for Elected Officials

**Background**

The city has a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan outlining roles, responsibilities and resources in the event of a natural or man-made disaster or event. In October 2014, city staff attended a senior officials’ workshop to better understand emergency management, as well as their potential roles and duties in a large emergency.

At Monday night’s study session, the city council will participate in specialized emergency preparedness training. The goal is to gain a better understanding of executive-level roles and responsibilities in a large emergency. The instructor for the night is Joe Kelly, a former brigadier general for the Minnesota National Guard who is now the director of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety’s Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

**Discussion Points**

- *Does the council have any questions regarding their role or the role of staff during a large scale emergency?*
- *Does the council have any questions regarding the city’s comprehensive emergency plan?*

Submitted through:  
Geralyn Barone, City Manager

Originated by:  
John Vance, Fire Chief
City Council Study Session Item #2  
Meeting of February 23, 2015

**Brief Description:**  Emergency Procedures Review

**Background**

The city has developed an employee emergency procedures guide for its employees. The guide covers topics such as accidents/medical emergencies, bomb threats, angry/threatening person, active shooter, elevator emergencies, fire and severe weather/tornado events.

In light of recent workplace violence events locally and around the world, staff leadership thought it would be timely to review the procedures guide with employees and the city council. As part of the review, the video *Run! Hide! Fight!* produced by the Department of Homeland Security will be shown.

Highlights from the procedures guide and the video will be presented at Monday night’s council study session. Additionally, the council will have an opportunity to discuss specific situations that may be concerning from a safety standpoint.

**Discussion Point**

- *Does the city council have any questions about emergency procedures?*

Submitted through:  
Geralyn Barone, City Manager

Originated by:  
Jeffrey J. Sebenaler, Chief of Police
Employee
Emergency Procedures Guide

City of Minnetonka
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
April 2014
Emergency Procedures Guide

This Emergency Procedures Guide is designed to provide at-a-glance instruction to employees in the event of an emergency. Additional information is available in the City Emergency Plan.

In addition to this Guide, and our Emergency Plan, employees are encouraged to become familiar with the City buildings’ severe weather shelters, corridors, exits and safety areas. Doing so now will help in future emergency situations.
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In the event of an accident or illness involving an employee or visitor, the following steps should be taken:

1. Call 9-1-1 for immediate assistance.

2. Tell the dispatcher the location and nature of the emergency.

3. Arrange to have someone meet emergency responders and direct them to the scene of the emergency.

4. Provide necessary first aid (if qualified) while protecting the privacy and dignity of the individual.

5. Automatic External Defibrillators (AED’s) are located in City Hall, Community Center, Fire Stations, Ice Arenas A & B, Public Works, and the Williston Center.
Phone Threats:
1. An employee receiving a threat should attempt to gain the information listed on the Bomb Threat Response Form. (Next page)

2. The employee should, as soon as possible, inform their supervisor or person in charge of the threat.

3. Call 9-1-1 to report the threat. Be specific with what details you remember.

4. Complete the Bomb Threat Response Form and give it to your supervisor.

5. Await instructions as to whether or not to evacuate the building. This information will be provided as a result of joint discussions between your supervisor and the police/fire representative on the scene.

Suspicious Mail/Packages:
1. Beware of suspicious packages or letters.

2. Do not open, inspect or move suspicious packages. Call 9-1-1 and wait for authorized personnel. Clear the immediate area.

3. Telltale characteristics of suspicious packages:
   -- misspelled words       -- foreign country origin
   -- no return address      -- rigid or bulky
   -- oily stains on wrapping -- strange odor
   -- left unattended        -- protruding wire
   -- excessive postage      -- addressed to title only
**ATF BOMB THREAT CHECKLIST**

Exact time of call __________________________________________

Exact words of caller ________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

**QUESTIONS TO ASK**
1. When is bomb going to explode? __________________________
2. Where is the bomb? ______________________________________
3. What does it look like? __________________________________
4. What kind of bomb is it? _________________________________
5. What will cause it to explode? ____________________________
6. Did you place the bomb? _________________________________
7. Why? _________________________________________________
8. Where are you calling from? _____________________________
9. What is your address? __________________________________
10. What is your name? ____________________________________

Caller’s Voice (circle)

Calm          Disguised          Nasal          Angry          Broken
Stutter       Slow              Sincere         Lisp           Rapid
Giggling      Deep              Crying          Squeaky        Excited
Stressed      Accent            Loud            Slurred        Normal

If voice is familiar, whom did it sound like?_______________
Were there any background noises?________________________
Remarks:________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Person receiving call _____________________________________
Telephone number call received at: _________________________
Date: ___________________________________________________
Report call immediately to: ________________________________
(Refer to bomb incident plan)
Dealing With Angry People - In Person or On The Phone

Often people working in the front lines of an organization face people who are frustrated or angry. Whenever possible, help the person resolve their situation, but first you may have to calm that person down.

**Listen**
- Listen to what the person has to say without interruption. Often people are angry because others have not taken the time to listen.

**Speak Softly**
- People who are angry tend to speak loudly and quickly. Consciously try to speak softly and at a moderate rate. Generally the person will soften their own voice to match yours.

**Use Names**
- Ask their name and tell them yours. This personalizes your interaction. It is more difficult to be rude to a “real person.”

**Ask Questions**
- Ask a few non-judgmental, clarifying questions. This lets the person know you are listening and concerned about their problem.

**Do Something**
- If possible, offer some sort of immediate assistance. This can be offering some written information or a referral number or person.

**Follow Through**
- If there is further action needed on your part, resolve the situation as soon as possible.
Definition
Threatening behavior is any incident which causes staff to feel threatened, frightened or physically at risk. It can include any of the following;
- Intimidation
- Serious or persistent harassment, causing fear.
- An actual or attempted physical assault.
- Damage to property.

General Guidelines
If a customer or employee begins demonstrating any behavior that appears threatening, it is important that staff and management take timely and appropriate action. The following steps should be taken:
- Inform supervisor and/or co-worker.
- Call 911 and report.
- Encourage the person to talk.
- Arrange yourself so your access to exits is not blocked.
- If possible, close protective windows at the front counter if necessary.
**Immediate Safety Threats**

**Definition**
An immediate safety threat is any incident which causes a concern for the safety of employees and/or customers.

**General Guidelines**
This type of incident varies and the response by staff will depend on the nature and scope of the threat. The primary concern is protecting staff and customers from physical violence. Some actions steps include some or all of the following:

- Call 911 to report the situation.
- Close and lock all main department doors.
- Close protective windows at the front counter if necessary.
- Stay away from windows.
- Supervisors should advise employees working in the field to stay away from the building during the emergency.
- Supervisors should account for all on-duty personnel.
- Make no statements to the media. Refer to your department supervisor.
- Supervisors should keep a log of events, after being made aware of the emergency situation.
**Definition**
An active shooter is an armed person who has used deadly physical force on other persons and continues to do so while having unrestricted access to additional victims.

**General Guidelines**
Active shooter events are unpredictable, dynamic, rapidly evolving, multi-variable situations requiring rapid response by law enforcement. If you experience an active shooter situation, you should take the following actions:

**IF THE SHOOTER IS OUTSIDE YOUR BUILDING:**
- Call 911.
- If you can do so safely, inform building occupants.
- Close and lock your door and all windows. If you cannot lock the door, try to block the door with furniture.
- Turn off all lights.
- Close the blinds and stay away from the windows and doors.
- Seek protective cover.
- Keep quiet and act as if no one is in room.
- Silence cell phones.
- Do not answer the door or respond to commands until you are certain they are issued by a police officer.
- Wait for police to assist you in getting out of building.
IF THE SHOOTER IS INSIDE YOUR BUILDING:

- If it is possible to escape the area safely and avoid danger, do so by the nearest exit or window.
- Evacuate to a safe area away from the danger, and take protective cover. Stay there until police arrive. Leave all personal property in the room.
- Notify anyone you may encounter to exit the building immediately.
- As you exit the building, keep your hands above your head and listen for instructions that may be given by police officers.
- If you get out of the building and do not see a police officer, call 911 as soon as possible.
- If you are unable to escape the building, move out of the hallway and into an office and try to lock the door.
- If the door will not lock, try blocking the door with furniture.
- Lie on the floor and remain silent.
- Silence cell phones.
- Wait for the police to arrive.

IF THE SHOOTER ENTERS YOUR AREA:

- If possible call 911 and leave line open so the police can hear what is going on.
- Use common sense. If you are hiding and flight is impossible, attempts to negotiate with the suspect may be successful.
- Playing dead may also be a consideration.
➢ Attempting to overcome the suspect with force is a last resort that should only be considered in the most extreme circumstances.

If the shooter exits your area and you are able to escape, leave the area immediately. Do not touch anything and remember to be alert for responding police officers who may mistake you as the shooter.

**Bottom line**, if you hear shots fired in or around the building, or if you see or know that an armed person is shooting people, **protect yourself first – move to a safe location.**
In the event of an elevator emergency or malfunction:

- If elevator is unoccupied, call for service.
- If elevator is occupied, do the following:
  1. Open the telephone panel inside the elevator.
  2. Lift up the receiver, dial 9 for an outside line, then dial 911 for emergency service response.
  3. Remain calm. Do not try to force open the elevator doors.
Unless otherwise notified, employees must evacuate the building when the fire alarm is activated.

If you see or are made aware of a fire, follow these guidelines:

1. Activate a fire alarm, if safely able to do so.
2. Call 9-1-1 to report the fire.
3. Evacuate the building, assist visitors/guests in the evacuation.
4. Gather a safe distance from the building.  
   *(Supervisors should account for all employees.)*
5. Await instructions from fire officials before re-entering the building.

Your safety is the most important consideration. Remember these tips:

• Use stairs if necessary, not the elevator.

• If caught in heavy smoke
  — take short breaths through your nose.
  — stay near the floor and move to an exit by crawling.
• A Tornado Watch means ... *Conditions are present for severe weather, such as a tornado, to occur.*

**Action:**

Continue normal routine; be alert for changing weather conditions, tune into commercial radio or television for updates.  

Department supervisors should assign personnel to monitor media broadcasts for rapidly changing weather conditions.  

Review Severe Weather Emergency Plan.

• A Tornado Warning means ... *A funnel cloud has been spotted, or a tornado has touched the ground, or, winds in excess of 70 mph have been recorded. Outdoor warning sirens may be sounded. The sirens are activated by the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Radio.*

**Action:**

Upon receiving notification, take shelter in a designated shelter area.  

Departments/individuals with portable radios should make sure their radio is on, in order to receive emergency broadcasts.  

Department supervisors should make sure all employees are aware of the warning, including employees who are out of the building. This may be accomplished by using city radios, cellular, etc.

*For additional information, refer to the guidance from the Emergency Operations Plan on the following two pages.*
CITY HALL, COMMUNITY CENTER, & ICE ARENA SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES

General Guidelines

After calling for confirmation from the police leadership or 9-1-1 Center and/or as conditions warrant, the City Manager’s office is responsible for notifying all employees within the City Hall, Community Center, and the Ice Arena to take shelter.

A. CITY HALL
   1. Upon receipt of notice from the City Manager’s office, all persons will proceed immediately to the lower level designated shelter area (note posted signs) of City Hall and occupy the Engineering Hallway/Corridor and the Jidana (Training) Room.
   2. Persons who are conducting business within City Hall who are not employees should also be directed to this shelter area.
   3. Department Directors are responsible for seeing that employees within the building take shelter when notified to do so. Office doors should be closed securely upon leaving the work space.
   4. If you are unable to get to the lower level, the safest areas on the main floor of City Hall are the bathrooms, or the inside stairs leading to the lower level.
   5. If possible, police personnel will be assigned to the shelter area to provide informational updates to employees and/or citizens.
   6. Personnel should not leave the designated space until the “all clear” has been given by the City Manager’s office.
   7. Members of the Recreation Department shall move to the south side of the Conference Room within their own department.
   8. Shelter areas or buildings are equipped with NOAA weather radios.
B. COMMUNITY CENTER
1. Persons located in the Community Center shall proceed to the ground floor. Citizens should occupy the Oak Knoll Class Room or the two restroom areas on the ground floor. In the event of a warning during a Community Room activity when a large group is present in the building, persons may also occupy the storage room at the northwest corner of the Community Room. A secondary location is the kitchen space.

2. During daytime hours, the Facility Manager is responsible for moving people to the appropriate location and providing necessary facilities and direction.

3. During evening hours, the on-duty facility supervisor shall insure that persons involved in activities in the Community Center are notified of appropriate shelter areas.

C. ICE ARENA
1. Persons in the Ice Arena shall proceed to the Locker Rooms (Locker Rooms 2 and 3).

D. PUBLIC WORKS
1. Persons in the Public Works buildings may either proceed to the locker rooms, main lift station or the reduction center.

E. OTHER
1. If you are away from City Hall when sirens sound, seek shelter in the basement of a structure. If you are caught out in the open, lie down flat on the ground in a low area, ditch or depression.

2. If you are in your car, get out of the car and seek a low area or depression and lie down flat on the ground. Do not try to outrun a tornado with your car.
Department Directors are responsible for ensuring that some means of emergency lighting and communications are placed in shelter areas, i.e., battery operated flashlights and radios.
City Council Study Session Item #3  
Meeting of February 23, 2015

Brief Description  
Preferences and Perceptions of Minnetonka

Background

The city has been discussing the issue of housing perceptions for a number of years. In 2014, the city engaged a research consultant to provide quantitative data about the city’s challenges and opportunities specific to housing choice in the future. In October, the city council held a joint study session with the various boards and commissions to discuss the research and to identify potential next steps.

Themes from Housing Perception Research

At the October meeting, the consultant provided an in-depth review of their research that involved interviewing people who do not live in Minnetonka, as summarized by these findings:

- Nearly all non-residents surveyed are at least a little familiar with Minnetonka.
- Noted “old homes” and “too expensive” Minnetonka housing inventory concerns.
- Most non-residents agree that they would feel safe raising their family in Minnetonka and that Minnetonka has high quality public schools.
- Most non-residents would be at least a little likely to move to Minnetonka if they were looking for a new place to live, and more than one-third would be at least somewhat likely to move to Minnetonka.
- Only about one-quarter of non-residents surveyed have moved to a new home in the past five years; of those, many considered but rejected Minnetonka.

The researchers also had a number of recommendations:

- Quality schools and safe neighborhoods are requirements to compete for new, younger area residents. Keep looking for opportunities to “stay-the-course” and/or improve if possible.
- Minnetonka should be aware that the most desired home amenities tend to be an attached garage, a large yard, and an open floor plan. Promoting these features to younger prospective residents should be encouraged.
- The results of this study show a contradiction between likelihood to consider moving to Minnetonka and actually doing so primarily because non-residents were able to find a cheaper home that was able to better meet their needs elsewhere. Continue promoting the “premium” attributes available to residents in the city of Minnetonka.
- Minnetonka should continue to consider the feasibility of constructing city amenities that are perceived to be better in other cities, such as bike trails, walking trails, and sidewalks to further increase positive perceptions of the city.
- Minnetonka’s “Quality of Life” perception is extraordinary among current residents and should be strategically promoted to gain interest in attracting new residents.
Council/Commissions Study Session Summary

During the October study session, the city's board and commission members were asked to provide suggestions about what could help address some of the issues raised by the research. The following are highlights of the input received:

- Showcase of homes
- Feature transformation of an older Minnetonka home; follow the story on city's website
- Educate realtors about diversity of housing stock
- Provide interactive park map, app, pictures, and amenities (instead of a static map)
- Promote city's park and trail system to non-Minnetonka residents

Staff Group Suggestions

After the commission and council's joint meeting, the information was shared with a larger staff work group. After brainstorming, the following were additional ideas suggested by staff:

- Identify internal staff members who have external outreach opportunities (ice arena, Williston, Community Center) and provide marketing materials, talking points
- Create a billboard promotion
- Collaborate with Hopkins School District to promote Minnetonka at local realtors meeting (already scheduled)
- Connect with school districts to provide open enrollees information on Minnetonka housing options
- Establish facts and stories that support the Minnetonka vision
- Collect business statistics on reasons they located in Minnetonka
- Establish a legacy family promotion (parents encouraging adult children to move back to the community) which builds off of already positive Minnetonka supporters

Staff is committed to incorporating action steps from these two discussions into the city’s strategic profile work plan for the year. Additionally, a marketing consultant will be engaged to review the research and gain additional insight into other options the city should consider.

Discussion Question: Is the city council comfortable with the noted direction?

Through:
   Geralyn Barone, City Manager

Originated by:
   Julie Wischnack, AICP, Community Development Director
City Council Study Session Item #4
Meeting of February 23, 2015

Brief Description
Update of Village Center Studies

Background

There are a number of village center studies in process or about to begin. This summary provides an update of the studies, public process and timelines for completion.

Shady Oak Station Area
This study is a joint effort between the city of Hopkins and the city of Minnetonka. The two city councils met in January about the process and received updates about station design from the Met Council's Southwest Project Office. On February 9, the council approved an agreement with the consultant to begin working on the study. There will be a staff kick off meeting in the next few weeks. The consultant will then begin collecting data, outline the project and develop possible zoning provisions. Staff is working with the project office to coordinate dates for a public process, as there could be joint meetings held (rather than multiple meetings about the same area). These public meetings would be held sometime late spring. The entire study is estimated to be complete by the fall of 2015.

Ridgedale Vision – Southwest Quadrant
Originally, the city adopted the vision for the Ridgedale area in 2012. Due to recent feedback received during the Highland Bank project review, the council directed staff to conduct further community outreach to discuss the southwest quadrant of the vision area. The initial kick off meeting was held on January 21. Approximately 1,900 notices were distributed to area property owners, and about 100 people attended. There were many questions and comments about the approved Highland Bank project, along with general concern about intensity and density described in the Ridgedale vision. Generally, the group was supportive of having an action plan for the area, but was concerned about the design implications. Participants also expressed many concerns about traffic and congestion.

The next sessions occurred February 18 and 19. An open studio was held on Tuesday, where residents and business owners interacted with the design consultant in a casual forum to provide input, suggestions and design ideas. Approximately 30 people attended. An interactive public meeting was held on Wednesday evening with approximately 40 people attending, many of whom attended the January kick off meeting. Information gathered at the open studio was presented, as well as an evolved concept based on that input. In total, five design concepts were presented for public input. The public commented generally about the Ridgedale area, development issues and frustrations with the process being used for the southwest quadrant vision planning.
There was not a general consensus on one particular concept nor was there general agreement about principles that would guide future planning.

Prior to the public meeting, the project schedule included a follow up meeting on March 10. The March meeting was intended build consensus among the participants to then provide a recommendation to the planning commission and city council. Without general direction on a preferred concept or principles that would guide future planning, the structure of that meeting will need to be refocused to address concerns raised at the February 18 session. Staff will revisit the input received and develop an engagement approach to address these concerns.

The anticipated schedule for an April planning commission public hearing and subsequent council review will likely be extended. Ultimately, the council will consider if the vision document should be considered as an additional element to the comprehensive plan or if it will continue to be a guiding document for decision making.

There is an additional process of reviewing a concept plan for a senior project, Cherrywood, for the property at 2004 Plymouth Road. United Properties requested the city review a concept plan for the site. Because of the proximity to the study area (southern end, on Plymouth Road) and the fact the city already was meeting with area property owners on February 18, the concept review for the neighborhood was held just prior to the Ridgedale vision meeting. Approximately 15 people attended that meeting.

Glen Lake – Village Center Update
In October and November of 2014, three scoping meetings were held with residents of the Glen Lake area. The meetings were intended to discuss process, past projects and gain consensus about designing the Glen Lake village center update process moving forward. There was good participation and staff gained preferred outreach methods (broad community engagement, multiple meetings, places and opportunities). The group also reviewed and refined the identified study area.

The next portion of the project will take place from April to June. The focus will be on a broader area study, including identifying any remaining potential redevelopment areas. The following is a list of other items that will be addressed in the study, as identified by the process participants:

- Review park and trail connectivity, particularly new connections to existing/defined park areas
- Identify priorities for preservation of natural corridors
- Address intensity of senior housing concerns
- Discuss and determine acceptable density and intensity of redevelopment
- Enhance understanding of integrating Hennepin County home school property with greater Glen Lake area, should this ever become available
Discussion Question

• *Is the council comfortable with the general direction of the studies?*

Submitted through:
  Geralyn Barone, City Manager

Originated by:
  Julie Wischnack, AICP, Community Development Director
Council Present: Patty Acomb, Dick Allendorf, Bob Ellingson, Tim Bergstedt, Tony Wagner, Brad Wiersum, and Mayor Terry Schneider.

Staff: Geralyn Barone and Perry Vetter

Schneider called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Boards and commissions interviews

Deborah Calvert

Calvert said she has been a resident of Minnetonka for 11 years. She and her husband moved for the Hopkins School District. She has been a past president of the Perry County, Illinois school PTO and founded a string music board and established a music program for the public school system while living in Michigan. Her husband works for the US Fish and Wildlife Service and that has allowed her to become familiar with natural resource issues and interagency cooperation. Calvert previously worked for Senator Klobuchar's office and was involved with the Legislative Action Committee for public schools. She currently works at William Mitchell College of Law supporting the president, dean and board of trustees. Her work experience has inspired her to be involved and commit to community service.

Schneider asked how she would identify sensible development. Calvert indicated that natural resources are a priority and yet we live in a world with real needs of housing and choice. Minnetonka has no downtown, but walkability, livability and preserving green space is a priority. Sensible development would balance those things and allow for housing, transportation and development providing for a vibrant economy.

Wagner asked how a commission member would need to balance their time. Calvert indicated her schedule is now less demanding since she is not working in the Senator's office and she has more time to dedicate now. She has spoken to others and is confident she can balance her commitments.

Allendorf asked of all her choices in boards, which would be her priority. Calvert indicated her first choice would be the Planning Commission to help shape the community and the second would be the Park Board to work on environmental issues and interagency cooperation.

Wiersum asked how she would validate the status quo of balancing need. Calvert responded that participants in the process want to be heard, especially when difficult decisions need to be made. She added that preserving green space is a balance and there is a way to use size and location to meet needs. Emphasis on communicating how decision making occurs is important to the process.
Kevin Hanson
Hanson said he has been a resident for three years and was drawn to Minnetonka for the schools, green space, balance to work and that it is a nice community. He wants to become more involved and help shape the city into what families like his would like. His background is in commercial real estate and while he has worked in a variety of capacities for his field, he is currently in the financial area. Through his experience and education he understands sites and how each decision can shape the future. There are right and wrong ways to do things and in his experience he has noted that one development can limit future ones that are adjacent to it. He feels he has a strong understanding of the tools a planning commission has and there is a need to find balance for the city, which his experience in commercial real estate and raising a family could help discover.

Wagner asked how he would find balance with city directives and policy with his own personal philosophy. Hanson commented that he would remain impartial and understands he is not a city planner.

Schneider indicated there is only one opening on the planning commission and none currently on the EDAC. He asked Hanson where his interests lie. Hanson replied he is ultimately interested in both commissions, but he is particularly interested in the planning commission first. Schneider also commented that there are two openings for the SWLRT citizen advisory committee and Hanson indicated he was also very interested in that opportunity.

Chris Gabler
Gabler said he has been a resident of Minnetonka for 38 years and has been involved with Bennett Family Park since 1991, four of those years as board president. His goal was to give back to Bennett since he played there in his youth. He has been involved in the Legacy Field project at Minnetonka High School which he found intellectually challenging due to Title IX requirements. He took the approach that instead of having equal mediocre facilities there should be world class facilities for both genders and worked to accomplish that. He feels the park system is underutilized and would work to get kids and parents out of the house. His experience with budget constraints for maintenance would allow him to be creative on how to maintain parks.

Wiersum asked how Gabler sees maintenance dollars will keep up with demand and how he views that issue as part of his point of view and experience. Gabler indicated he deals with perception and that at one time everything is shiny and new and as time goes on we need to ensure that park users see the value we are giving them. At Bennett they had to look at other sports to be viable and that the city may need to “sell” the parks to the community to increase their perceived value. His ultimate way to do that would be to get kids out of the house and using the park system.
John Powers
Powers indicated he likes to be outside and feels active and reenergized in a good park system. He recently returned from New York and commented on the park system he was able to experience during the time he was there.

Schneider asked about the balance between youth sports and active seniors. Powers replied that parks are an interesting problem; one could make the argument that they are underutilized, but often they are places waiting to be enjoyed upon discovery. There are active and passive members of society and each would approach what park use means differently.

Wiersum asked for his view professionally on how Minnetonka’s park system stacks up for people looking to move into the community. Powers replied that there are too many answers to provide just one. Each person looking to move here has a different opinion based on their preferences. Those preferences could range from a hockey family looking at the youth sports options to those wanting opportunities to be able to walk for recreation. Each person looking to move here has such unique needs and he feels we offer a wide range of opportunities.

Derek Diesen
Diesen indicated he is a 13 year resident of Minnetonka and his neighbors asked him to become more involved and apply for the planning commission. He previously ran for the Wayzata School Board and has a diverse background as a licensed general contractor.

Schneider asked how he would approach a single issue to then represent the broader community. Diesen indicated in the case of the Highland Bank proposal he would do what makes the best sense and in his opinion it was not the height of the building he opposed, but that it was promises the developer made got left out for the community. He understands there will always be a balance required between the community and a developer, especially as it relates to the diversity of housing needed. He doesn’t have any ideological issues and thinks that both the Applewood Pointe and Tonka on the Creek developments were good projects for Minnetonka.

Wiersum asked because there was only one planning commission position open if Diesen had any other interests. Diesen responded his desire was to connect with the community and would be interested even in the comprehensive guide plan group.

Wagner asked Diesen to elaborate on his application of the desire to review the PUD ordinance as it relates to the values of the community. Diesen responded his desire is to look at the PUD ordinance and ensure that the guidelines listed correlate to applications made under it. He feels that applications should
reference those guidelines and there should be an aspect that is defined to avoid too much flexibility. While he understands the PUD ordinance there is always room for improvement.

2. **City manager's performance review**

Schneider announced that the council would enter into closed session to conduct the performance review of Geralyn Barone, City Manager. The council will summarize its conclusions regarding the evaluation at the January 26, 2015 meeting.

3. **Adjournment**

The study session adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Vetter  
Assistant City Manager