

**Addenda  
Minnetonka City Council Meeting  
Meeting of October 12, 2020**

**ITEM 8 – Citizens Wishing to Discuss Matters Not on the Agenda**

The attached email was received after distribution of the packet.

**ITEM 14A – Ordinance approving rezoning of the existing property at 4144 Shady Oak Road from R-1 to R-2**

Attached is correspondence received after distribution of the packet.

**ITEM 14B – Sustainability Commission Ordinance**

Attached is correspondence received after distribution of the packet.



14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345 | 952-939-8200 | [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com)

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Julie Wischnack, AICP, Community Development Director  
**DATE:** Oct. 12, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Change Memo for Oct. 12, 2020 City Council Meeting

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**ITEM 8 – Citizens Wishing to Discuss Matters Not on the Agenda**

The following email was received after the distribution of the packet.

**ITEM 14A Other Business – 4144 Shady Oak Road R-1 to R-2 Rezoning**

The following emails were received after the distribution of the packet.

**ITEM 14B Other Business – Sustainability Commission Ordinance**

The following emails were received after the distribution of the packet.

**Minnetonka City Council Meeting**  
Oct. 12, 2020

**Agenda Item 8**

Emails received after the packet was created

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**From:** GERALYN BARONE <gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 3:58 PM  
**To:** Julie Wischnack <jwischnack@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: City council meeting tonight: rules regarding Hot tubs in the city

For the addendum

**From:** js [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 3:54 PM  
**To:** GERALYN BARONE <gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Cc:** Bradley Schaeppi <bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>; Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>; Susan Carter <scarter@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>; Rebecca Schack <rschack@minnetonkamn.gov>; KISSY COAKLEY <kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** City council meeting tonight: rules regarding Hot tubs in the city

Hi

I will be participating in the City Council meeting tonight during the portion "Citizens Wishing to Discuss Matters Not on the Agenda"

I am considering the purchase of a backyard hot tub. These are self-contained factory-built (pre-fab) hot tubs with no construction and no engineering done on-site at my house.

I like to follow the rules, and don't want to follow the lead of other hot tub owners in Minnetonka and ignore the city ordinances.

Minnetonka ordinances treat hot tubs the same as a large in-ground swimming pool. This results in most owners of hot tubs in Minnetonka in violation of city ordinances.

Minnetonka hot tub compliance includes the following requirements:

- 5 foot high fence around hot tub
- 15 foot setback from side yard
- building permit

These requirements are ignored by most hot tub owners in the city of Minnetonka.

## How do neighboring cities handle hot tubs?

I checked with the city planning and inspection offices of our neighboring cities:

Hopkins, Wayzata, St Louis Park, Edina, Plymouth, Deephaven, Woodland

NONE of the neighboring municipalities treat hot tubs as a swimming pool.

NONE of the neighboring municipalities require a fence around a residential pre-fab hot tub - because they are equipped with a lockable cover.

NONE of the neighboring municipalities require a building permit for a pre-fab hot tub.

NONE of the neighboring municipalities require more than a 5 ft setback from property boundaries.

Minnetonka is an outlier regarding hot tub rules. An ordinance is not good governance when most residential hot tub owners are not in compliance.

I talked to the planning department, and their answer is "NO". They have no interest in adopting hot tub rules in sync with neighboring cities.

## Permit compliance:

I searched the Minnetonka permit database and discovered that **there were only TWO building permits** pulled for hot tubs in the past 12 months (although dozens were delivered into Minnetonka).

### Permit # M1241132

241132	Building	Single Family	Remodel/Alteration	New hot tub and fence	3625 Plymouth Rd	2/20/2020
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Notice this permit is for a hot tub AND fence.

I did a few drive-by's, and captured photos from **public streets**.

A drive-by reveals the hot tub, but NO fence on the property.



**Permit # MI 242613**

242613 | Building | Swimming Pool | New | remove 12'x12' section of deck and replace with slab and hot tub with fence | 13120 Homestead La | 5/8/2020

A drive-by shows the hot tub in red, but again NO FENCE



**Permit # MI 236856**

236856 | Inspections | Building | Single Family | New | Single Family 2 Story Home | 13755 Bird Song Ct | ZEHNDER HOMES INC | 9/19/2019 | 8/28/2019 | 5/14/2020

Shown here is a BRAND NEW home permitted and final inspected this year No hot tub permit was applied for, and no fence exists



**My ask of the city council:**

Please carve out an ordinance which excludes pre-fab hot tubs and swim spas as separate from the city of Minnetonka swimming pool rules

Eliminate building permit requirements, along with fencing and setback requirements Make it the same as surrounding municipalities As long as the unit has a lockable cover

Of course an electrical permit would still be required, but thats all There is no gas hookup, and no plumbing work required for these pre-fab hot tubs and swim spas

There are a dozen hot tub retailers within 5 miles of Minnetonka, and they all claim to be selling briskly to Minnetonka residents - especially as residents are "nesting" in place and adding amenities to their homes

Yet only TWO hot tub permits were issued in the city in the past 12 months Even when the two permits were issued in the past 12 months, the inspectors appear to be ignoring the hot tub rules

I would politely like to ask either:

- change the hot tub rules as all surrounding cities have done, or
- enforce the fencing and setback rules for the hundreds of non-compliant hot tubs in the city

Thank you for your consideration

Joel Stone

**Minnetonka City Council Meeting**  
Oct. 12, 2020

**Agenda Item 14A**

Emails received after the packet was created

**From:** [Fiona Golden](#)  
**To:** [Fiona Golden](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 4144 Shady Oak Road  
**Date:** Monday, October 12, 2020 3:03:31 PM

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**From:** Jen Pilate  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 2:20 PM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** 4144 Shady Oak Road

Hi Brian,

I understand that you'll be discussing the proposed re-zoning of the Olshansky Property at 4144 Shady Oak Road tonight. Before the meeting I want to share my thoughts with you.

I live at 11809 Lake Street Extension, and have been here since 2009. When we moved here I had my hands full with two children under the age and two and both my husband and I worked FT. Today my kids attend West Junior High and learn from home. What a difference 10 years makes!

Anyway, when we purchased this property it had been a rental for about 5 years, and before that it was owned by the Holland family for approximately 30 years. In the 11 years that I've been here we slowly made it back into a home to raise a family in. Renters and the landlord did not treat this place well. The lawn was destroyed. Buckthorn and creeping charlie took over. All of the gardens were overgrown and full of weeds. All of the foundation plantings had to be removed. All of the wallpaper had been painted over. The tile that was installed crumbled at our feet the day we moved in. The home wasn't loved. And it only took 5 years for it to fall into that state. I do not trust landlords to maintain properties well, as they are only looking to make money.

Also, when we moved into the neighborhood the Olshansky home was still on the corner of Shady Oak Road and Lake Street Extension. It was a lovely home and a nice corner property/entrance into the neighborhood. I was sad to see it go, but the improvements to Shady Oak Road were worth it. We can now walk or ride bikes safely to downtown Hopkins or to Lund/Byerlys - Big Willow, etc.

My concerns regarding the rezoning of the property to multifamily are related to the impact to the look and feel of the property than it is to anyone who may reside there. The entrance look and feel to this neighborhood impacts more than just my property and my immediate neighbors, but to the entire greater neighborhood that stretches all the way to Baker Road, and between Hwy. 7 and Excelsior Blvd.

I am currently considering making extensive improvements to my property to better accommodate my family. We really like this location, and as one can see from the rate of turnover in this neighborhood, so do many of the residents. However, if the addition of a multifamily property at 4144 Shady Oak Road degrades my property value it may not make sense for me to make further investments in this property, as the neighborhood may not support it. I should note also that many homes in this neighborhood are nearing the point



of time when they will be either renovated or left to age as-is. A big factor behind that decision is whether or not the neighborhood will support and uphold property values, and therefore justify the investment in improvements. I would hate to see residents choose not to make the investments.

There is a rental just a few houses up the street from us, and it is an eye sore. If that property were the entrance to this neighborhood I would never have purchased this home. And there would be no reason for me to invest further in my own property. I would very likely choose to move rather than invest in this property and this neighborhood

I hope that you will consider voting against the rezoning of this property.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Pilate

**From:** a p [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 1:53 PM  
**To:** Drew Ingvalson <dingvalson@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: 4144 Shady Oak Road

Drew,

Please see attached for views from the ground. I am sharing this with the council as well.

Thanks,  
Alaun

Sent from mobile.

----- Original message -----

**From:** Drew Ingvalson <[dingvalson@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dingvalson@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Date:** 10/6/20 9:13 AM (GMT-06:00)  
**To:** 'a p' [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: 4144 Shady Oak Road

Alaun,

Good morning. I have provided a link below that will take you to the city webpage that has information regarding the meeting (see highlighted section). The meeting minutes from the meeting last November will be included in the packet submitted to city council (so your comments at that meeting will be provided to the council).

As for the Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, a public hearing, or public comment period, is not legally required at the city council meeting; however, the mayor may decide to open a public hearing if desired. Again, you will need to sign up in the highlighted link below if you wish to request to speak.

You may also submit written comments to me. I can then provide them to the city council in the form of a change memo.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Best regards,

**Drew Ingvalson** | Planner  
City of Minnetonka | [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov)  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345  
Office: 952-939-8293

**From:** a p [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 9:00 AM  
**To:** Drew Ingvalson <[dingvalson@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dingvalson@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: 4144 Shady Oak Road

Thanks for the update. My neighbors and I very much oppose this plan. It would change the character of our street from single family to multifamily, something we do not want. The 20-year zoning plan served as our guidance, and we have our life savings tied up here based on that plan. We feel the quality of life of Minnetonka homeowners should be respected above an outside developer's desire for extra profits.

How can we voice our opposition to the council with a virtual meeting?

Thanks,  
Alaun

Sent from mobile.

----- Original message -----

**From:** Drew Ingvalson <[dingvalson@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dingvalson@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Date:** 10/5/20 11:23 AM (GMT-06:00)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 4144 Shady Oak Road

Mr. Pederson,

Good morning. The applicant at 4144 Shady Oak Road has elected to move forward with their request to rezone the property from R-1 to R-2, allowing a future multi-family home to be constructed on the property. The city council will be reviewing this item at the Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> virtual city council meeting.

Project information can be found on the [Olshansky project page](#). The report will be posted within the project packet later this week on the [Council Meeting page](#) (see Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> Agenda).

More information about the Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> virtual city council meeting (viewing, attending, etc.) can be found at this [link](#).

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

**Drew Ingvalson** | Planner  
City of Minnetonka | [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov)  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345  
Office: 952-939-8293

View of property from the West:



View of property from the Neighborhood Entrance:



View of property from the Adjacent single-family home:



Character of existing homes on lake street extension:



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What type of property fits with the others?

- A. Single family
- B. Commercial Multi-family

**Minnetonka City Council Meeting**  
Oct. 12, 2020

**Agenda Item 14B**

Emails received after the packet was created

**From:** [Fiona Golden](#)  
**To:** [Fiona Golden](#)  
**Subject:** Sustainability Commission Ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, October 12, 2020 11:43:20 AM

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**From:** Linda Russell  
**Sent:** Friday, October 9, 2020 3:26 PM  
**To:** Julie Wischnack <[jwischnack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:jwischnack@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Julie Wischnack <[jwischnack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:jwischnack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Sustainability Commission Ordinance

Hello Ms. Wischnack,  
I just sent the letter below to the city council, Ms. Barone, and you. I misspelled your last name, and it bounced back to me. I'm sorry about that! Here is my letter:

Hello Council Members, Ms. Barone, and Ms. Wischnack:  
My name is Linda Russell, and I am a member of both the Minnetonka Climate Initiative and the Friends of Lone Lake Park. I am writing to support the formation of a Sustainability Commission and your draft ordinance. I'd also like to support the applications (forthcoming) of two people who would be excellent candidates for this new commission.

First, thank you for listening to the community. Forming a commission that can view activities and policies of the city through an environmental lens is important for our future. I applaud the efforts that the staff have made to think through how this new commission may both fit into and branch out of other commissions and their work. Good collaboration between members of this new commission and others will be critical for its success.

I'm happy to see the broad scope of this Sustainability Commission. It will be a big task to view the city in both broad and specific terms. I'm also pleased that you considered some of MCI's suggestions, particularly allowing the youth members to vote, as well as increasing the number of new community members. I hope this commission will be inclusive in membership and skill sets. I ask that the process will be such that the public can view the interviews with candidates the way we can watch council meetings.

Two of our MCI members will apply to sit on this commission: Brian Golob and Jerrold Gershone. You will find them both well qualified. Brian has years of professional work dedicated to environmental regulatory compliance, and has been a member of the team working on the Xcel Energy PIE program with the city. Jerrold is a master naturalist and professional in communications who brings a commitment to maintaining and improving land ecology in Minnetonka. Jerrold is on the board for the Cullen property and volunteers many hours for the city in its parks.

Again, thank you for your continued work to keep Minnetonka a healthy community to live and work in. I look forward to the next chapter in a more sustainable city.

Regards,  
Linda Russell  
5423 Maple Ridge Court



**From:** [Fiona Golden](#)  
**To:** [Fiona Golden](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Sustainability Commission Ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, October 12, 2020 11:44:46 AM

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**From:** Judy Gregg

**Sent:** Sunday, October 11, 2020 8:47 PM

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Susan Carter <[scarter@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:scarter@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>; GERALYN BARONE <[gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Julie Wischnack <[jwischnack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:jwischnack@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Judy Gregg

**Subject:** Proposed Sustainability Commission Ordinance

Dear Mayor Wiersum, Councilmembers Calvert, Carter, Kirk, Schack, Coakley, Schaeppi and Ms Barone and Ms Wischnack,

I am a member of the Minnetonka Climate Initiative and also an Elder on the Session of St Luke Presbyterian Church. Several years ago the St Luke Session passed a resolution supporting youth in Minnetonka and surrounding communities in requesting that the City of Minnetonka establish a Sustainability Commission and create a Climate Action Plan for the City. I am thrilled that this is now in part, coming to fruition in that the City Council will be voting tomorrow on a Sustainability Commission ordinance and I fully support the City passing this ordinance.

St Luke has been very committed over the years to mitigating the effects of climate change and seeking to educate people on climate justice issues. I applaud the proposal that students or youth on this new commission will be given voting rights as it is their future that is on the line. I am also pleased that the appointments to the Commission will be with an eye to maintaining a diversity of representation. It is my hope representing MCI that the recruitment will be an open, transparent process.

Thank you so much for your work in making Minnetonka a great place to live and work and look forward to seeing the work of this commission.

Judy Gregg

Elder, St Luke Presbyterian Church  
Member, Minnetonka Climate Initiative

**From:** [Fiona Golden](#)  
**To:** [Fiona Golden](#)  
**Subject:** Sustainability Commission  
**Date:** Monday, October 12, 2020 11:45:47 AM

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 11, 2020 7:55 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>; [scarter@minnetonka.gov](mailto:scarter@minnetonka.gov); Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Cc:** Geralyn Barone <[gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Julie Wischnack <[jwischnack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:jwischnack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Sustainability Commission

Dear Council Members and Senior City Staff:

I want to thank you for your public service and support of past environmental initiatives that Minnetonka has implemented. I read over proposed Ordinance No. 2020 and strongly encourage all council members to vote in favor of staff's recommendation to adopt the sustainability commission ordinance. This giant step will positively impact our community's future and will benefit all current and future city residents.

Brian Golob  
Minnetonka Resident

**From:** [Fiona Golden](#)  
**To:** [Fiona Golden](#)  
**Subject:** Sustainability Commission  
**Date:** Monday, October 12, 2020 11:47:28 AM

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**From:** Jerrold Gershone

**Sent:** Sunday, October 11, 2020 7:48 PM

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Susan Carter <[scarter@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:scarter@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Geralyn Barone <[gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Julie Wischnack <[jwischnack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:jwischnack@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** Sustainability Commission

Hello Mayor, Council Members, Ms. Barone and Ms. Wishnak,

Thanks for your work and vision on moving the Sustainability Commission Ordinance forward. I believe this is a very important step for Minnetonka.

Thank you also for being responsive to the suggestions of MCI. If the ordinance passes I think we have a lot of qualified people in Minnetonka who feel strongly about sustainability and the environment who will step forward to apply. I hope that the selection process will be transparent.

I know that Brian Golob is interested. Brian brings a great background as an environmental scientist and member of the PIE task force. He is also endorsed by MCI. If the ordinance passes as proposed I would also be interested in applying.

I do think an important function of the Commission would be to look at policies through a sustainable/environmental lens. I know as proposed there are members of other commission that would sit on the Sustainability Commission. I would hope that there would be opportunity for collaboration and that the Sustainability Commission isn't so circumscribed that it's in name only.

Thank you again for bringing this important ordinance forward.

Best,

Jerrold

Jerrold Gershone  
13111 April Lane  
Minnetonka

**From:** [Fiona Golden](#)  
**To:** [Fiona Golden](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Minnetonka Climate Initiative  
**Date:** Monday, October 12, 2020 11:48:53 AM

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**From:** John Mirocha  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 10, 2020 7:40 AM  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Susan Carter <[scarter@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:scarter@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Cc:** GERALYN BARONE <[gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Minnetonka Climate Initiative

Mayor and City Council Members,

My name is John Mirocha and I am a member of the Minnetonka Climate Initiative (MCI) and Friends of Lone Lake Park (FLLP). I am writing you to support the formation of a Sustainability Commission (SC) and to recommend two individuals.

I applaud the city council for its consideration of establishing the SC, and its proposed ordinance, which includes a number of the points that we requested be included (more members of the public than first proposed, and students with a voting membership). I appreciate the broad scope of the proposed ordinance and the ability of the commission to weigh in on strategy and policy issues and to link into the work of other city commissions and departments. That will ensure a robust membership of talented and committed members, an interdisciplinary focus on sustainability issues and successful initiatives for Minnetonka.

It is imperative that membership is determined via a transparent and public interview process for new SC members. The final interview matrix and rankings for the group of candidates should be shared with council members and discussed thoroughly before any decisions are made. Membership diversity should be an important factor in selection to widen engagement in this important issue throughout our community.

I personally endorse Brian Golob's and Jerrold Gershon's applications to be on the SC. Both have worked tirelessly on behalf of the city to further environmental and sustainability issues. Both are experienced in working productively in groups with multiple points of view to attain successful group outcomes. We are lucky to have such talented and committed community members who are willing to serve.

Thank you for your attention.

John Mirocha  
5423 Maple Ridge CT

**From:** [Fiona Golden](#)  
**To:** [Fiona Golden](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sustainability Commission  
**Date:** Monday, October 12, 2020 11:53:20 AM  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Jennifer Munt  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 11:32 AM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Susan Carter <[scarter@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:scarter@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaepi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaepi@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Cc:** Geralyn Barone <[gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Julie Wischnack <[jwischnack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:jwischnack@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Sustainability Commission  
**Importance:** High

Greetings, Mayor Wiersum & Council Members!

Thank you for advancing the Sustainability Commission Ordinance and for hearing the recommendations of our Minnetonka Climate Initiative. We urge you to adopt the ordinance when you meet tonight.

Honor is due to the council members who made the case for a larger, more inclusive commission that gives youth the right to vote.

As proposed, the Sustainability Commission will consist of nine voting members, including five members appointed from the community at large; two young adults (under 25 years old), one of whom must be a student at a high school in the Hopkins, Minnetonka, or Wayzata school district; and ex-officio members, one from each of the park board and planning commission.

Members shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council. We recommend a transparent selection process with virtual public interviews. Please give strong consideration to three applicants recommended by the Minnetonka Climate Initiative: Brian Golob, Jerrold Gershone, and Quin Orange.

Together, in partnership, we can create a more just and abundant future for our community and our environment.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Munt  
5261 Beachside Drive

Minnetonka, MN 55343

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**From:** Jennifer Munt  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2020 10:46 AM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bwiersum@eminnetonka.com)>  
**Subject:** Sustainability Commission  
**Importance:** High

Good morning, Mayor Wiersum!

I strongly encourage the city council to appoint a Sustainability Commission.

I echo MCI's recommendations regarding its composition and voting authority (**highlighted below**).

Minnetonka needs a larger commission with more community members than commissioners, including youth who can vote.

Together, in partnership, we can create a more just and abundant future for our community and our environment.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Munt  
5261 Beachside Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55343

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**From:** Minnetonka Climate Initiative  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 28, 2020 10:55 PM  
**To:** [bwiersum@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bwiersum@eminnetonka.com); [dcalvert@eminnetonka.com](mailto:dcalvert@eminnetonka.com); [scarter@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:scarter@minnetonkamn.gov); [bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov); [rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov); [bschaepi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaepi@minnetonkamn.gov); [kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov); [gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov)  
**Subject:** MCI input for the proposed Minnetonka Sustainability Commission

Greetings to Mayor Wiersum, Ms. Barone, and city council members! I am sending you this note on behalf of the Minnetonka Climate Initiative (MCI). We are so pleased that you are considering the formation of a Sustainability Commission (SC) for Minnetonka. And we thank you for meeting with us over the past few weeks to share ideas about the SC.

I have attached a document with two parts: an MCI response to the City's proposal for the SC, and an ordinance for the SC that has been drafted by MCI. This ordinance was reviewed with Mayor Wiersum and Ms. Barone, and we have edited it based on feedback we received at that meeting. We are hoping that you will have a chance to review this document prior to the study session tomorrow evening (June 29), at which you will be discussing the SC.

To summarize key points from the document:

We agree with City staff's recommendation as to the role of the SC. Specifically, "*Provide leadership in engaging the community, encouraging relationships and partnerships with neighborhoods, special interest groups, religious institutions, public institutions, business leaders, and other commissions.*" For this to happen, we feel the SC is best served by including community members who have time and interest to devote, including those with environmental and climate change interests, scientific expertise, and students. We suggest the SC recruit individuals who do not currently serve on another Minnetonka commission.

MCI proposes the following makeup of members in the SC:

- 6 community members, representing each of the 4 wards, and 2 at large members
- 3 community members with relevant scientific expertise
- 2 or 3 students with voting memberships

We have a strong preference that the SC be driven by Minnetonka community members. The city staff has recommended a smaller number of SC members, 4 of whom will be members of other Minnetonka commissions.

We also have a strong preference that the student members have the same voting rights as the adult members, since they will be most impacted by climate change and will have to live in the future with decisions made today. An SC is being considered at this time because our own Minnetonka youth have taken the leadership to bring climate change issues to the forefront.

Thank you for considering our thoughts and suggestions. We look forward to the study session and the discussion about the Sustainability Commission.

Best regards,

**Linda Langin**, on behalf of MCI