

MINUTES
CITY OF DELANO
Spirit of Community Commission
Tuesday, October 14, 2025 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Darcy Roeser called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Darcy Roeser, Henry Scere, Todd Belz, Abbey Lang, Nick Neaton, Linda Althoff, Michelle Dirckx

Members Absent: Kinsey Mens, Jennifer Slipka, Joe Kittok, Juston Dooley

Also Present: Todd Belz, City Council Liaison; Holly Schrupp, City Council Liaison; Nick Neaton, Community Enrichment Director

Motion to approve the agenda, with adding mission, snow angels. Second by Michelle; motion passes.

3. Minutes

A. July 8, 2025 Regular Meeting

Nick Neaton recommends adding Michelle Dirckx to the 'present' list for July 8, 2025 minutes.

Motion by Michelle, seconded by Abbey to approve July 8, 2025 minutes with this change; motion passes.

4. Sesquicentennial Committee Update

Michelle said the Sesquicentennial (SQ150) committee is busy. There are two grants in the works. One is for the publication of the Delano history book. The second is through the Minnesota Humanities Center. This could provide funds for different events throughout the year.

The group is working on the October 3, 2026 event, dubbed "The Jamboree." This would be a daytime event, located in downtown Delano, filled with entertainment and activities.

They are working towards 150 ways to celebrate, with various events throughout the year. Different organizations are holding events/observations throughout the year.

There is an historic calendar with photos, etc. that will be available for free to the public. They will start being available at the Halloween trick or treat events. The committee has ordered 1900 calendars.

The 'buy a brick' campaign continues – bricks cost \$100 through the end of the year, \$150 thereafter.

Michelle asked SOCC members to help with some of the events – for example, tabling at different events; helping to promote the commemoration.

Linda asked if there was a "final day" to buy a brick. Michelle said that it depends on timing, construction, and some funding details.

5. Review National Night Out

Nick said there were 22 parties, which is right about the maximum of what they usually expect. There were a variety of locations (houses, apartments, etc.), hosts, etc. The weather was good, too.

One neighborhood said they would like ways to make sure that newer residents are engaged/include.

Greywood had a first-time party.

Michelle asked whether we could share a 'welcome' sheet with realtors, model homes, etc.

6. Review September Volunteer & Community Fair

Nick said that feedback from group participants was mixed, but generally positive. Holding it on the waffle breakfast day was good. Groups would like to see more unified participation, maybe by putting the groups all together. One suggestion was to put table tents for the event at the breakfast.

7. Discuss potential community learning sessions

The group discussed options for future Spirit of Community breakfast events. Abbey suggested a speaker on artificial intelligence and shared a contact with Nick. Nick said he would follow up with the speaker and try to get a session scheduled for mid-November.

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8. Discuss future meeting dates

Nick said the City Council has recommended that the Commission change its meeting schedule to quarterly meetings, instead of monthly – unless there were relevant business to discuss.

Commission members expressed concerns about building momentum for the SQ and developing new events if meetings were changed to a quarterly schedule.

On a motion by Michelle, and seconded by Henry, the commission voted unanimously to recommend to Council that the SOCC continue to meet monthly through 2026, continuing with current practices.

Staff will share this recommendation to Council at a future meeting.

9. Mission of the Spirit of Community Commission

Nick shared notes from the Council's July workshop meeting, where the Council directed staff to revise the SOCC scope of work. Recommended changes include: less focus on issues of diversity and issues that could be perceived as political; and more focus on volunteerism and civic engagement.

Nick said that staff is working on revising the position description for commissions, including the SOCC, and that these changes would be discussed at a future Council meeting.

10. Discuss future meeting dates

The commission decided to cancel the November meeting due to the conflict with Veterans' Day holiday, and due to the potential mid-November breakfast event.

11. Community Updates

a. City Council

Todd reported that the Council approved permits for the Light the Night event, Old-Fashioned Christmas, and tree lighting

Council is considering a proposed pavilion structure at the park, which was tabled at a recent meeting.

The Council also passed an ordinance concerning predatory offenders in the City.

b. School District

Abbey reported that Community Ed is planning the winter/spring brochure to come out in mid/late November. There are large events coming up including a Christmas show with Butch Automatic and the Four Speeds; and Lori Line at the Performing Arts Center. Community Ed is also planning many activities for Old-Fashioned Christmas events

c. Business Community

Linda shared that the downtown business trick or treat event is happening on October 31 at downtown businesses. She said the Christmas tree-lighting event is happening on Small-Business Saturday, November 29. Additionally, there are new retailers downtown - Rustic Creations, and a studio focused on beauty/lashes. Ridgewater College is offering classes at the 1051 McKinley Building. Many are focused on certificates and specialized training.

d. Faith Community

No update

12. Other business

13. Adjournment

Roeser adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.