



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of the City Coordinator

Date: July 11, 2007

To: Mayor R.T. Rybak, Chair, Executive Committee

Referral to: Committee of the Whole

Subject: Minneapolis Sesquicentennial

Recommendation:

- 1) Resolve to recognize July 18 – 27, 2008 as the dates for a Minneapolis Sesquicentennial Celebration; and
- 2) Authorize City staff to work with the Minneapolis Aquatennial staff to coordinate events.

Approved by: Steven Bosacker Presenters in Committee: Steven Bosacker
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Financial Impact

No financial impact.

Supporting Information

It's time to celebrate the Minneapolis Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary). The town of Minneapolis was authorized by the Minnesota Territorial Legislature in 1856 with formal incorporation and the first town council organized in 1858.

According to a 1938 Government Magazine article there was a vote for incorporation on July 7, 1858 and the first council meeting was on July 20, 1858. We do not have Minneapolis town council meeting proceedings from June 5 – July 28, 1858, resulting in no definitive source. However, according to several sources the first Council meeting was on July 20, 1858.

Minneapolis was then incorporated as a "city" in 1867. An election was held on February 19th to elect the City officers and City government commenced on February 26th.

We would like to use this time of celebration to also promote Minneapolis as the City of Water and strengthen existing partnerships, specifically with the Minneapolis Aquatennial. We are proposing to coordinate the sesquicentennial and aquatennial event dates.

Attached is a timeline of Minneapolis and a proposed council resolution. The purpose of the resolution is to recognize July 18 – 27, 2008 as the dates for a Minneapolis Sesquicentennial Celebration, and to coordinate that celebration with the Minneapolis Aquatennial.

Minneapolis Timeline

1856 - 1872

1857 – 1858 Minnesota becomes the 32nd State

February 26, 1857 – The United States Congress passed an act permitting voters of the Minnesota Territory to decide if they wanted to become a state.¹

October 13, 1857 – An election was held for voters to accept or reject the constitution. The result: 30,055 for acceptance and 571 for rejection.²

May 11, 1858 – Minnesota becomes the thirty-second state of the union. [Congress passes S. 86 and the President signs the act that admits Minnesota into the union.]³

1858 Minneapolis Gets Organized

The town of Minneapolis was authorized by the Minnesota Territorial Legislature in 1856 and the first town council was organized in 1858.⁴

March 1, 1856 – Governor Gorman approved an act to incorporate the town of Minneapolis.⁵

July 7, 1858 the voters voted the incorporation⁶

July 20, 1858 – the first Council meeting of the town of Minneapolis was held.⁷

1866 – 1872 The City of Minneapolis

March 2, 1866 – An act was passed by the Legislature of 1866 to grant a charter to the city of Minneapolis.⁸

1867 – Minneapolis incorporated as a “city.”⁹ An election was held on February 19th to elect the city officers (according to a legislative act to incorporate the City of Minneapolis).¹⁰ On February 26th City government commences.¹¹

1872 – Consolidation of St. Anthony and Minneapolis under the name of Minneapolis.¹²

¹ <http://www.mnhs.org/library/constitution/index.html> and <http://www.mn150years.org/timeline.html>

² <http://www.mn150years.org/timeline.html>

³ <http://www.mn150years.org/timeline.html>

⁴ <http://www.mpls.lib.mn.us/history/cg1.asp>

⁵ History of Minneapolis. Atwater © 1893

⁶ Taken from a 1938 Government Magazine Article

⁷ History of Minneapolis. Atwater © 1893

⁸ History of Minneapolis. Atwater © 1893

⁹ Minneapolis, City of Opportunity. © 1956

¹⁰ Council Proceedings. February 21, 1867. and Atwater © 1893

¹¹ Council Proceedings of the town of Minneapolis. February 25, 1867.

¹² History of Minneapolis. Atwater © 1893