

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
August 28, 2012
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kingston called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Answering roll call were Chair Kingston, Commissioners Bigbee, Cashmore, Erhardt, Newell, Stanton and Winnick. Staff present: Lisa Schaefer, Human Resources Director and Staff Liaison; and Ari Klugman, City Manager Intern.

Commissioner Finsness entered the meeting at 8:05 PM.

III. MEETING AGENDA APPROVED

Motion was made by Commissioner Bigbee and seconded by Commissioner Stanton approving the meeting agenda of August 28, 2012.

Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Erhardt, Kingston, Newell, Stanton, Winnick.
Motion carried.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTED

Motion was made by Commissioner Bigbee and seconded by Commissioner Stanton to approve the July 24, 2012 minutes.

Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Erhardt, Kingston, Newell, Stanton, Winnick.
Motion carried.

V. COMMUNITY COMMENT

There were no community comments.

VI. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

A. 2012-2013 New Student Members

Chair Kingston shared the names of the 2012-2013 student members and reviewed the names of those who volunteered to mentor the new students. Commissioner Winnick, Bigbee and Finsness have all volunteered. Chair Kingston suggested choosing one primary mentor for the each student.

The Commission discussed student membership options and decided the two primaries would be Arnie Bigbee and Lisa Finsness with Commissioner Winnick helping out as needed.

Commissioner Cashmore asked why there were two female students and suggested it is nice to have both genders.

Commissioner Newell explained her concerns with picking students based on gender, stating there are many students that would prefer not to self-declare a gender and she wouldn't want to put that expectation on the students. She suggested going with the best candidate regardless.

Commissioner Cashmore expanded on his concern stating he fears the commission could become cast as a female thing, and believes human rights are for all.

Staff shared there were fewer male student members interested across all of the boards and commissions overall.

Commissioner Cashmore suggested expanding outreach for student members to increase the pool of applicants.

Commissioner Bigbee will talk to Commissioner Finsness and decide who will be assigned to each mentor. They will ask Commissioner Winnick to help as needed.

VI.B. 2013 WORK PLAN

The Commission reviewed the draft of the 2013 work plan to be presented to Council at the September 19th work session.

- **Anti-bullying event or education- Edina Reads**

The commission decided on Edina Reads as the Anti-bullying event for 2013. Chair Kingston asked about what resources would be needed for the event. Commissioner Bigbee was unsure of the expectation. They decided to hold discussion until Commissioner Finsness arrived.

Commissioner Newell suggested the doing some anti-bullying efforts regarding bullying in civil discourse, especially in an election year.

Commissioner Winnick suggested possibly adding that to the 2012 work plan, not the 2013.

- **Event or actions related to census research/demographics**

Commissioner Stanton shared the current status of this item with the YMCA. Commissioner Stanton then asked the commissioners how attached they were to this direction.

Commissioner Bigbee stated his interest is to find a means where the commission can make a difference and overcome disparities in access.

Commissioner Erhardt shared an interaction he had. The Somali woman he spoke to seem to have an interest in helping penetrate the Somali community. He suggested she may be an opportunity for the commission.

Commissioner Newell spoke of her experience hearing Fartun Weli, director of Isuroon, a Somali organization speak on women's health issues in the Somali community. Commissioner Newell has invited Weli to come to the HRRC's September meeting.

Commissioner Winnick said he recently heard an argument for the preservation of Human Rights panels. Hopkins was mentioned as one of the cities that has recently ended their panel. Winnick

also shared that Carrie Cabe from the Edina Resource Center currently has a grant she obtained through do.town for \$20,000 a portion of that funding has been targeted towards reaching out to Somali and Asian populations. Carrie has chosen to try to reach out to Community organizers. Commissioner Kingston explained Carrie's approach is currently different than the HRRC's. She asked if the Commission would want to partner with Edina Resource Center.

Commissioner Stanton suggested partnering with the YMCA as well, and asking the community what their interests are. The Y has said they are willing to host an event.

Commissioner Cashmore explained he appreciated finding need and then allocating resources. One option is to talk to Chief Long about issues and identify leaders within the community and have informal forums. The Resource Center is a good resource, because it is their job to make those connections. The best involvement is often what is brought to us by the Citizens themselves.

Chair Kingston stated the group will then reframe and focus on developing cross organizational partnerships to understand community needs related to the census demographics. This will allow the group to develop resources and expertise.

Chair Kingston then asked about the financial resources.

Commissioner Stanton suggested \$1,500.

Commissioner Bigbee suggested Parks and Recreation could be a great opportunity to reach out as well. For instance in Bloomington does two to three hour events for various communities to hear about issues.

Chair Kingston stated similarities may emerge. She suggested focusing the November televised meeting on the issue.

Commissioner Newell suggested inviting Weli to the meeting.

Commissioner Winnick will talk to Chief Long on the issue generally.

Commissioner Cashmore stated a community outreach program to understand and develop contacts within the city could be helpful.

Commissioner Newell explained the west metro, has similar and different issues that cross the city boundaries. The league may be a good resource on the broader issue.

Commissioner Stanton explained the police used to be brought in to talk to the commission about discrimination.

- **Days of Remembrance**

Chair Kingston shared with the group an opportunity to get Janet Horvath, a Minnesota Orchestra Cellist, to perform her piece related to the Holocaust and Bullying. There is potential to tie into anti-bullying with the High School. This could be tied to an event for Days of Remembrance.

Commissioner Cashmore stated he felt the Commission had lost momentum by not having a larger event last year.

- **Victims of Domestic Violence**

Commissioner Newell explained her suggestion of doing something related to domestic violence.

Commissioner Bigbee suggested a possible tie ins with Cornerstone, who the City already provides funding to.

Commissioner Cashmore suggested Tubman too, stating the City decided not to fund them last year. They could still be a viable resource.

Commissioner Stanton suggested doing something earlier in the year.

The Commissioners agreed to plan an event in early 2013.

Commissioner Finsness arrived at 8:05 pm

- **Healthcare Act**

The Commission Newell suggested having some type of event to inform citizens about the health care act.

Commissioner Bigbee suggested the topic be sent to the health committee. They have resources and people there who would be better off explaining the topic.

Commissioner Finsness emphasized educating people before the election, so they can understand and vote.

Commissioner Bigbee stated he doesn't think this topic can be covered without sounding politically motivated.

Commissioner Newell stated they should be stewards of information before being partisan.

Commissioner Kingston suggested removing the item and leaving it up to the community health board. The commission agreed.

- **Evaluate current status of Human Rights in Edina and make recommendations on opportunities for improvement. For example, possibly working with transportation commission on issues affect human condition in Edina.**

Commissioner Bigbee stated this item is to give us the opportunity to identify if we are missing anything. Are there respected members or geographic problems we are missing.

Commissioner Finsness stated we don't know if we don't ask. She suggested a possible survey, blog or private way for people to share information we may be missing.

Commissioner Bigbee shared his experience working with do.town on a walking survey. Bigbee expressed concern for items like the bus stops on France with no sidewalks.

Commissioner Kingston suggested incorporating this and the transportation issue into the broader goals of the commission and not having separate items.

- **Tom Oye**

- **Edina Reads**

Commissioner Finsness stated she had still not been able to get down specifics regarding the event but hoped to do so in the next week. Chair Kingston asked her to estimate what a budget amount may be and if there was any staff support needed? Commissioner Finsness stated there would probably be a contribution if the group was trying to get the Author to come to the event, and funds would be need to buy extra copies of the books. The commission estimated a \$2,000 budget. Commissioner Finsness also stated video would probably be needed for the event. Commissioner Finsness agreed to get this information to staff before the September 7th deadline.

VI.C. 2012 WORK PLAN

i. Draft Resolution on Voter ID Amendment

Commissioner Stanton presented a draft resolution on the Voter ID Amendment.

Motion was made by Commissioner Stanton and seconded by Commissioner Cashmore, to recommend to the City Council that they approve the resolution opposing the Voter ID Constitutional Amendment.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Stanton shared the financial costs of Voter ID are from the Humphrey Institute Voter ID Analysis.
- Chair Kingston asked for the resolution to incorporate the specific impacts on Edina.
- Commissioner Newell explained some of the research she had gotten from City Clerk Mangan. She stated Mangan only knew of one case of voter fraud in her tenure and the case was unintentional and involved absentee voting and was caught before it affected the results. Statistically, the amount of voter fraud is incredibly low nationwide.
- Commissioner Finsness suggested including the impacts on students, since Edina is a college oriented city.
- Chair Kingston asked commissioner Newell to include her statistics on same day voter registrants in Edina.
- Commissioner Stanton suggested sending the information to the September 19th Council meeting. Which would give the commission time if the council had comments or wanted changes.
- Staff Liaison Schaefer clarified the Commission may send on information, but the Council will get to decide when and if it goes on the agenda. Since this item has not yet been discussed with the council, we don't know what their position will be.

**Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Erhardt, Kingston, Finsness, Newell, Stanton, Winnick.
Motion carried.**

Commissioner Winnick asked to send his edits to Stanton. Chair Kingston informed Winnick the motion had already passed as is. Commissioner Winnick stated he was confused because the group was talking about incorporating changes to focus the resolution on the City of Edina.

Commissioner Stanton moved to reconsider the previous motion, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Cashmore.

Commissioner Winnick moved to adopt the resolution on voter ID with the following modifications.

1. On page two of the resolution, the word Minnesota should be changed to Edina.
2. In the last preamble where it states “as a sacred tool” it be changed to but instead.
3. Following the sentence saying eligible...it state insert citizenship documents.

Chair Kingston asked if Winnick would accept a friendly amendment. Commissioner Winnick agreed to insert “Eligible Edina Center” to the resolution.

4. Insert the words at New York University law school, following Brennan Center.

Vote to approve as amended:

**Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Erhardt, Kingston, Finsness, Newell, Stanton, Winnick.
Motion carried.**

- ii. Update on Editorial Regarding the Impact of Marriage Amendment on Edina**
Commissioner Stanton presented the press release on the Marriage Amendment and updated the group on the media coverage.

Commissioner Stanton shared with the group that the City would like to consider including a family on the webpage in the section called Edina is for Everyone. If any of the commissioners know of a diverse family who would like to be featured please communicate with them and then send their information to staff.

- iii. Draft Resolution Related to Super PACs**
Commissioner Finsness shared with the group her finalized draft resolution related to Super PACS and suggested sending the item to the September 19th Council meeting.

Staff Liaison Schaefer stated the Commission could suggest but the Council will have the discretion over when this goes on the agenda. This item was also, not on the work plan. So we don't know what the City Councils position will be.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cashmore to approve the resolution to be sent to the City Council for approval. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Finsness.

Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Erhardt, Kingston, Finsness, Newell, Stanton, Winnick. Motion carried.

iv. Draft of Domestic Partnership Ordinance Revisions

Commissioner Cashmore presented the draft revisions of the Domestic Partnership Ordinance. The revisions involved the fourth point that was left out when the resolution was approved by council.

Chair Kingston suggested including the item in a work session with the Council in early 2013.

The revisions were tabled to next meeting. Staff will send out the full Domestic Partnership Ordinance.

v. Tom Oye Award Rubric

Commissioner Finsness asked for the item to be tabled until next month, because she did not have time to draft the rubric.

Commissioner Winnick suggested instead of moving back the Tom Oye process another month for the rubric, that the commission stay with the current criteria for 2013 and any proposed changes are dealt with in February, if necessary.

Commissioner Finsness stated she did not believe the rubric would affect the criteria being currently used; instead the changes would appear in the commission's process for choosing the person.

Commissioner Winnick expressed concern, stating he has not seen the rubric yet so he is unaware of how it will affect the process and he wants to be sure applicants know what they are being evaluated on.

Member Newell stated she did not feel the rubric would affect the current process.

Commissioner Bigbee moved the Commission continue with the current process and review next year and make any changes necessary. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cashmore.

Commissioner Finsness stated she would still like an alternative selection process.

Commissioner Newell gave examples of how the rubric would work. For instance, the committee could include items like, Impact on Edina. The intention is for these items to help the commission to select the candidate.

- **Motion was made to table previous motion by Commissioner Stanton and seconded by Commissioner Finsness.**

Ayes: Finsness, Newell, Stanton.

Nays: Bigbee, Cashmore, Erhardt, Kingston, Winnick.

Motion: Defeated

Vote on original motion:

Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Erhardt, Kingston, Stanton, Winnick.

Nays: Finsness, Newell

Motion carried.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

Two letters have been included in the packet on the marriage amendment, one in favor and one in opposition to the HRRC editorial.

Commissioner Finsness left at 9:35 pm

VIII. Chair and Commission member comments:

Chair Kingston reminded the commission to look at the attendance records and be aware of how many absences they have.

IX. Staff Comments

Staff Liaison Schaefer shared City Manager Neal will be the Staff Liaison for the HRRC while she is on leave, not Assistant City Manager Kurt. Assistant City Manager Kurt will be taking on other duties for Schaefer as HR Director.

Staff Liaison Schaefer reminded the commission that emails regarding HRRC business are generally public.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business on the Commission Agenda, Commissioner Winnick made and Commissioner Cashmore seconded a motion to declared the meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ariel Klugman, City Manager Intern

Minutes approved by HRRC, September 20, 2012

Jessica Kingston, HRRC Chair