

MINUTES  
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION  
September 20, 2012  
7:00 PM

***I. CALL TO ORDER***

Chair Kingston called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

***II. ROLL CALL***

Answering roll call were Chair Kingston, Commissioners Bigbee, Finsness Cashmore, Newell, Seidman, Stanton and Winnick, Student members Maggie Stang and Tara Mohtadi. Staff present: Scott Neal, City Manager and temporary Staff Liaison; and Ari Klugman, City Manager Intern.

Commissioner Erhardt entered the meeting at 8:09 PM.

***III. MEETING AGENDA APPROVED***

**Motion was made by Commissioner Bigbee and seconded by Commissioner Winnick approving the meeting agenda of September 20, 2012.**

Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Finsness, Kingston, Newell, Seidman, Stanton, Winnick.

Motion carried.

***IV. CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTED***

**Motion was made by Commissioner Stanton and seconded by Commissioner Seidman to approve the August 28, 2012 minutes.**

Commissioner Cashmore presented the following change to the minutes.

Under item VI. B. Victims of Domestic Violence, correct the error replacing the term “commissioner” to “City” in the second half of the third paragraph.

Commissioner Finsness presented the following changes to the minutes.

Under item III. Roll Call remove Commissioner Seidman.

Under item III. Roll Call after the first paragraph insert the following, “Finsness entered the meeting at 8:05”

Under VI. B. 2013 Work Plan under Tom Oye remove “Commissioner Finsness stated she did not have time to get to the rubric this month and would like to table it until the September meeting” and “Commissioner Winnick stated the commission is talking about the 2013 plan now and will get to that in the 2012 update.”

**Commissioner Stanton made a motion and Commissioner Winnick seconded the motion to approve the revisions to the minutes.**

Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Finsness, Kingston, Newell, Seidman, Stanton, Winnick.

Motion carried.

**(Return to original motion to approve the meeting minutes).**

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

**V. COMMUNITY COMMENT**

There were no community comments.

**VI. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**A. Carrie Cabe, Edina Resource Center**

Commissioner Winnick introduced Carrie Cabe director of the Edina Resource Center. Cabe also works with the Community Council. Commissioner Winnick invited Cabe to introduce herself and to go over potential opportunities for the Commission's Work Plan.

Cabe introduced herself and talked about the demographics of clients the Resource Center is currently serving and spoke about her efforts to reach out to the Parklawn area.

Commissioner Cashmore asked for clarification of the Parklawn area.

Cabe said she would return to park lawn in a moment after she finished explaining her role. Cabe then explained she works on behalf of the City and School to reach out to residents about what resources are available and who is able to help with what. In the past year, the number of emails received has increased and hopefully the new website will continue to help.

Cabe explained Parklawn is by Gallagher and Parklawn Avenue across France near Southdale.

The Edina Resource Center has received a grant from BlueCross BlueShield, to go towards community organizing. Cabe will be targeting the grant money to move it towards outreach at the school because this has been the most effective form of outreach.

This past summer, there was a small event at Lake Edina Park. They found the small event reached out to a broader group. Cabe has also been walking bus stops meeting parents. The parents then told their neighbors, who told their neighbors.

Cabe has heard some concerns from residents. There is no place for many of the kids in these areas to play in their neighborhoods. So the Kids run around the apartment itself.

During Night to Unite, Police Officer Tom McKenzie and Kristin Aarsvold, from Parks and Recreation and Cabe went out to the area. This seemed to work out really well.

Cabe has learned a lot during this process about bridges out of poverty and generational poverty.

Cabe found the resource directory to be helpful for families. Paper has seemed to work the best with outreach, both flyers in the laundry rooms and sliding flyers under doors.

Commissioner Winnick stated Valerie Burke from Edina Public Schools has provided some demographic information in the area schools. Around 18% of total enrollments are minorities and there is a large East Asian Population.

Commissioner Stanton asked if the school district extends into the Southeast area.

Cabe explained some of the area is in Richfield, but those students aren't in the Parklawn neighborhood. A lot of families try to move into Edina for the Schools, but then realize they are not in the Edina School District and have to open enroll.

Commissioner Newell asked if Cabe knew if those families are normally successful.

Cabe explained, they try to fit them in, but the schools are full. There has been a problem with some of the apartments saying they are within Edina Schools, until the lease is signed. When they are actually in the Richfield school district

Commissioner Newell asked if there is anything the HRRC could do, since the apartments are in Edina, to help disclose that information.

Commissioner Winnick explained there are a lot of people that would have to be trained at each of the apartments. Winnick then asked City Manager Neal, if the Council is aware of this?

Commissioner Stanton explained the school district makes adjustments all the time and asked if there are any changes at the State level. There are websites you can go to see the adjustments.

Manager Neal said he is not sure how aware of this issue the city is, but the Council has met with the School Districts and they did talk briefly about these school district lines.

Commissioner Newell stated it seems like the city council may have the authority to say when you give a lease you have to provide a link or information to make it known to people.

**Commissioner Cashmore stated this might not be the right time but this sounds like something the HRRC would draft and send an ordinance to the council, if so I would like to move that we do that.**

**The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bigbee.**

Commissioner Stanton asked Manager Neal if the City has the authority to do this under statute.

Manager Neal responded saying he is not sure, but I could find out.

Chair Kingston suggested tabling the motion until the November meeting when more information is available.

**Commissioner Stanton moved to table the issue until the November meeting. Commissioner Seidman seconded the motion.**

**Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Finsness, Kingston, Newell, Seidman, Stanton, Winnick.**

**Motion carried.**

Commissioner Finsness pointed out to Cabe one item the HRRC has been watching is changing demographics. Finsness explained the HRRC is interested in joining forces and can identify events or bring various committees together to help.

Cabe explained she has had more success going to communities then expecting them to come to her. For instance, she has done a Red Cross babysitter training course in their apartment building. Cabe explained the more exposure they have to me, the more they use me as a resource. Another issue is transportation related, for couples where there is only one car they are not able to make it to the library or school unless they are walking. They don't have the ability to spontaneously go to an event.

Commissioner Stanton asked Cabe if she worked on a population analysis at all.

Cabe explained this is one of the jobs she has, and she is meeting with Joyce Repya about demographics this week.

Commissioner Stanton explained the YMCA partners with Rotary to provide rides to events. They could be a really good resource.

Cabe explained some demographics are hard to reach at the Y. For instance, Somali women don't work out at the Y because both genders are present. Whereas, the East Indian population is easier to reach out to, they are actively trying to enroll students early in school and are very aware of the resources offered.

Another aspect of Cabe's position is working with the Edina Community Council. Hope Melton is very active in advocating for seniors in the community and student member Lauren Taylor is a junior and is very good about helping to reach out in the schools. We also have a police officer in the Community Council and are trying to find someone from these communities to represent as well.

Commissioner Bigbee stated he felt this was very important because they are all Edina residents. Every Commission should have an opportunity to interact, for instance, the HRRC could have our meeting at an apartment building near Southdale.

Cabe suggested Edina Park's party room.

Commissioner Bigbee stated that is a great opportunity.

Commissioner Winnick reminded the group there is a bookmark in the 2013 work plan for this.

Chair Kingston had the Commission introduce themselves to the new Student Commissioners. The two new student members then introduced themselves to the Commissioners.

B. Discuss outcome of September 19 Council meeting.

Chair Kingston shared that the Voter ID Resolution was sent to the Council. Council Member Bennett had some changes. Both Commissioner Stanton and I were in agreement with the changes. She added some implications to the City; a lot of this information is unknown because the resolution is an amendment not legislation. The Council passed the Voter ID resolution unanimously. I will be meeting with Scott Denfeld for a sound bite next week.

Commissioner Stanton asked about press coverage, stating the goal is to educate, when can we? Manager Neal stated he did an interview on the Voter ID resolution this morning and I shared it with a group of City Managers today.

Chair Kingston asked Commissioner Newell about her work on this previously and whether her article could work for something like this.

Commissioner Newell shared the purpose of what I wrote was informational but could lead a reader in a direction, but was not intentional. My article is also much more than 500 words; I am not sure what to do with that. I am reluctant to cut it down to an opinion; I am under the mindset that all is need.

Commissioner Finsness asked if the 500 word limit is for a guest editorial or column.

Chair Kingston explained her understanding is the paper doesn't accept more than 500 words.

Commissioner Finsness asked for clarification if it is a paper requirement for all submissions

Manager Neal asked for clarification as well, is the 500 word limit is imposed by Communications and Technology Director Bennerotte or the Sun Current?

City Manager Intern Klugman responded Director Bennerotte stated my understanding is the Sun Current will cut the 500 words or the Commission can, but they will not run more than 500 words.

Commissioner Stanton clarified a letter to the editor is even less approximately 300 words. Commissioner Stanton advised the HRRC should cut the article because the paper may focus on a different aspect.

Commissioner Winnick suggested sending out the drafted article for everyone to work on.

Commissioner Newell explained the article is written from the perspective that she came in to see Clerk Mangan steeped in the process, and the article comes off more of a feature explaining the back office of elections rather than on Voter ID.

Chair Kingston asked the commission if their preference is for a factual informational article or in light of the resolution being passed, a persuasive editorial similar to the Marriage Amendment editorial.

Commissioner Stanton suggested a persuasive and to use Commissioner Newell's as a basis to write letters to the editor. He suggested a shorter article would be more widely read.

Commissioner Bigbee asked why the commission is only submitting to the Sun Current and not the Star Tribune or other sources.

Commissioner Stanton clarified the last editorial went to all.

Commissioner Seidman suggested in light of the Council voting in favor of the resolution that the commission have a persuasive, assertive article.

Commissioner Newell shared that there are a couple of paragraphs at the top that can be cut already because they referenced the Supreme Court case.

Commissioner Finsness shared the Joe Nathan Article is about 500 words. She suggested a guest column and maybe some letters to the editor.

Commissioner Newell stated she would like some help.

Commissioner Cashmore asked if it is Jennifer's job to prepare press releases.

**Commissioner Erhardt arrived at 8:09 PM.**

Chair Kingston suggested coming back to the editorial in October to approve.

Commissioner Stanton suggested cutting the editorial for right before the election and have Jennifer do a press release now.

Chair Kingston shared with the group that the Council didn't see the Super PAC resolutions connection to the City and voted to table the resolution indefinitely unless they see Edina impact. Then she asked Commissioner Finsness how she felt as the last member to work on the resolution.

Commissioner Finsness stated she will leave it up to the commission.

Commissioner Stanton shared he listened to the Council's comments and they tabled it so they didn't have to vote it down.

Commissioner Erhardt stated it seems to me, the Council doesn't see the impact.

Chair Kingston explained the issue is they didn't see the City of Edina connection, not that they didn't think it was a problem.

Commissioner Cashmore shared that he monitors the Politics in Edina (PIE) Facebook page, and some of the residents are coming out and pushing back on some of the stuff coming out of the HRRC. I think there is a safe move here.

Chair Kingston stated the Council said the other issues were timely. So we will leave this then.

C. Discuss outcome of Work session with Council on the 2013 Work plan.

Chair Kingston shared the results of the joint work session with the Boards and Commissions. The Council seemed happy about the Edina Reads project. Mayor Hovland suggested possibly working with Alec Fischer's movie, Minnesota Nice.

The Mayor also said he has a contact in the Chinese American community for us and suggested we visit the Hindu Temple.

Commissioner Newell asked where the Temple is located.

Chair Kingston explained off of Highway 100 and 77<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Newell suggested the HRRC go as a group.

Manager Neal stated he has been there before and could arrange a time.

Commissioner Seidman suggested they come here to.

Chair Kingston shared the Council had a primary interest in Cornerstone, because the City provided funding to them last year, but they want us to work with Tubman too. In relation to the health information meeting, Council Member Brindle suggested looking into the work Saint Pats has done on Social Justice.

Commissioner Stanton stated the Catholic Church isn't necessarily neutral on the healthcare plan.

Chair Kingston clarified these are just comments. She also shared Council Member Sprague wanted all of the Boards and Commissions to think about Living Streets. Living Streets is about building an infrastructure looking at all aspects of the public sphere and how we can best use our space, instead of centering on cars as the only frame. The Edina Transportation Commission is the primary on the policy. There was no one from the Edina Transportation Commission there, so I am not sure how they want to handle cross functional aspect.

Manager Neal stated he is not sure how that will happen, but one thing they are interested in is bus stops.

Commissioner Bigbee thanked manager Neal for the segue and said there were 10 to 12 inch gaps between the sidewalk and the driveway over in his neighborhood. I documented them while on a survey for do.town. I was very impressed because public works crews filled them today. I think we need to look at sidewalks and bus stops, by my house and France Avenue there are none. These are our people.

Commissioner Newell stated this has a major effect on people in motorized wheelchairs who ride the bus.

Commissioner Bigbee stated the Promenade is fabulous, for having wide paths.

Chair Kingston stated the Council will provide more feedback to us on the 2013 work plan.

Commissioner Bigbee asked Manager Neal to pass along a thank you to the city crew.

#### D. Draft Revisions of Domestic Partnership Ordinance

Commissioner Winnick shared draft revisions of the domestic partner ordinance, to include a revised version of number four; which was previously not included in the approved ordinance.

Commissioner Stanton stated number three has not been made. I looked up the City Code and in the personal policy 150.10, it is not included.

City Manager Intern Klugman clarified the personnel policy is no longer in the City Code. But instead is a policy.

City Manager Neal stated yes, we took it out but the personnel policy still exists.

Commissioner Stanton said the section is still listed online.

Manager Neal said he would look at that tomorrow with Lisa before she went on leave.

**Commissioner Cashmore made a motion to adopt the language and Commissioner Finsness seconded the motion.**

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

**Motion carried.**

Chair Kingston stated the item will be discussed in the joint council work session this spring.

E. October and November meeting updates

Chair Kingston shared Jeff Holman from the MN Dept. of Human Rights wanted to have a two hour public forum. But since we have already taken a position on the Marriage Amendment and Voter ID, which I am not sure he was aware of. I told him we have limitations. What they want to do is not necessarily what we wanted to do with them. I told him we will discuss this after the November Election.

Commissioner Finsness asked for clarification if they will be at the October meeting.

Chair Kingston stated they will not be.

Commissioner Newell shared she has two people for the October meeting and asked when she can talk about this.

Commissioner Finsness responded Commissioner Comments.

Chair Kingston then shared with the commission that the annual televised meeting will be in November, and that she would like to dedicate a portion of the October meeting to planning. She then asked how much time the commission would like to dedicate.

Commissioner Stanton suggested thirty minutes.

Commissioner Finsness agreed.

F. General Work Plan updates

Commissioner Stanton shared there is nothing new involving the Census Research Funding Recommendation, but would like to meet with Carrie Cabe from the Edina Resource Center.

Commissioner Finsness shared with the group about Edina reads. The group working on it found the book to be absolutely doable. She met with Dick from the Community Foundation and some of the Librarians. The date will be April 22<sup>nd</sup>, not February. We are still working to see if the Author can

come, but if he can't be there possibly a representative. She reminded the group the book is called, A Thinking Man's Bully and is made up of around 15 short stories.

Commissioner Stang asked if the Edina Reads is something people sign up in advance for and for more information about how Edina Reads work.

Commissioner Finsness shared Edina Reads is a foundation with a board. All the public is invited. For this Edina Reads, there will be more publicity. The goal is to keep bullying on the forefront. One option could be to see if Alec Fischer could possibly come, if the author can't.

Commissioner Stang shared that the Schools showed Alec's video this past week.

Chair Kingston mentioned Yom Hashoua is also in April, so we may have two events around that time.

Commissioner Stanton shared there is nothing new with the Marriage Amendment forum, since the resolution has already passed and the editorial is written.

City Manager Intern Klugman asked if the Commission wants to keep it on the timeline.

Commissioner Stanton said until the editorial comes out I would like to, but we can rename it editorial and not forum.

Commissioner Winnick shared his goal to develop a comprehensive communications plan for the Tom Oye Award. He would like each of the Commissioners to share one or two nominees. An email with the information will come out.

Commissioner Cashmore shared Alec Fishers non-profit was charged \$1,500 for the Edina theatre; as an aside, because we talked about renting at one point.

Commissioner Winnick shared Rachel Corner from Edina HS will share with faculty that we are seeking nominees. We would like to increase quality names and nominees.

Chair Kingston asked if there is a deadline for nominees.

Commissioner Winnick shared January. I would like to get it set up by November.

City Manager Intern Klugman shared that the City is planning to have a portal for online nominations. She will check with Director Bennerotte on the status.

## **VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS**

Chair Kingston asked Manager Neal if the HRRC could get a copy of the letter the Council received about the Voter ID Amendment.

Manager Neal stated that is a good idea, I should have brought it. For those of you who don't know. The Council doesn't allow community comment on items on the agenda, which are not public hearings, because it would turn into a de facto public hearing. The letter was focused on the Brennan information in the resolution, but that information had been edited out of the draft resolution.

Chair Kingston stated there seemed to be some problem with the last preamble clause. The author of the comment talked to a reporter after the meeting, but I am not sure what source. So if you see anything let the commission know.

### **VIII. Chair and Commission member comments:**

Commissioner Cashmore expressed concern over the theft of signs. Some reports have been made to Edina police, he is unsure if that is something the commission would take on.

Manager Neal stated theft of signs is very common around election time. In some cases, the police are actually removing it from the right of way. If that is the case, they keep the signs out on the back of the building by the dumpsters.

Commissioner Erhardt stated that must be new, they have been putting signs in the right of way for several years.

Commissioner Newell shared Furton Weli, could not make the September meeting and so Commissioner Newell had Karmit Bulman, from the Conflict Resolution Center, as a substitute lined up but never received anything back. Commissioner Newell would like to put them both on the agenda. Commissioner Newell also asked about how the city disburses grants.

Chair Kingston said grants are handled through the Human Services funding.

Commissioner Newell asked about groups that didn't get funding.

Commissioner Bigbee said the Commission used to fund, but now the boards and commission wide group makes the decision.

Manager Neal clarified City Governments are prohibited from contributing public funds to charitable organizations. So now, the grant funds are actually service contracts. The Human Services group is made up of a volunteer from each board and commission. They received, interview and grant the applications. The HRRC doesn't distribute funds, the Human Services Taskforce does.

Commissioner Stanton shared the deadline has passed.

Commissioner Newell explained the Conflict Resolution Center used to receive a letter, so Bulman has assumed she did not get renewed.

Chair Kingston in the past we had asked Susan to send out a letter to previous recipients.

Commissioner Stanton stated they have submitted an application for \$5,000.

Commissioner Newell stated she would like to have them come in and talk to the Commission.

Commissioner Bigbee asked what part of the work plan they would relate to.

Commissioner Newell stated they would like to talk about conflict resolution.

Commissioner Bigbee stated perhaps he is being selfish about the time, but what part of the work plan does the conversation link to. The Commission needs to stay focused.

Commissioner Finsness asked if everything needs to be tied to the work plan or can some of the items be for professional development.

Chair Kingston suggested making a decision about that next meeting.

Chair Kingston asked how much time Commissioner Newell thinks would be needed for Fartun Weli at the October meeting.

Commissioner Newell said thirty minutes.

Commissioner Winnick apologized for his behavior last meeting. He met with Commissioner Finsness for coffee and apologized to Commissioner Finsness personally.

Chair Kingston shared she is in the process of changing jobs and her Digital River email address will no longer work instead send messages via her Comcast email or call her home phone. Her cell phone is being switched as well and might not work.

#### IX. Staff Comments

City Manager Intern Klugman shared student orientation will be next week on Tuesday.

#### 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 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ariel Klugman, City Manager Intern

Minutes approved by HRRC, October 23, 2012

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Jessica Kingston, HRRC Chair