

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
February 26, 2013
7:00 PM

I. *CALL TO ORDER*

Chair Kingston called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

II. *ROLLCALL*

Answering roll call were Commissioners Bigbee, Cashmore, Newell, Seidman, Stanton, Winnick and Chair Kingston, and Student Member Stang. Staff present: Lisa Schaefer, Staff Liaison and Ari Klugman, City Manager Intern.

III. *MEETING AGENDA APPROVED*

Motion was made by Commissioner Bigbee to approve the meeting agenda of the January 22, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Seidman.

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

IV. *CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTED*

IV. A. January 22, 2013 Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Seidman and seconded by Commissioner Cashmore to approve the consent agenda.

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

V. *COMMUNITY COMMENT*

There were no community comments.

VI. *REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS*

A. Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Commissioner Winnick asked the two nominee's he introduced at the January 22nd meeting to confirm their interest in running. Commissioner Bigbee confirmed his interest in Chair, and Commissioner Seidman confirmed her interest in Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Winnick opened up to further nominations for Chair, hearing none he moved for nominations to be closed. Commissioner Cashmore seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Winnick opened up to further nominations for Vice-Chair, hearing none he moved for nominations to be closed. Chair Bigbee seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Winnick made a motion and Commissioner Stanton seconded the motion to vote by voice acclamation to appoint Arnie Bigbee as Chair and Jan Seidman as Vice Chair. Commissioner Stanton seconded the motion.

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

B. Review and update bylaws

City Manager Intern Klugman shared this is part of the annual work plan; it is an opportunity to review the current bylaws and recommend to Council any changes. Staff Liaison Schaefer shared staff has no recommended changes at this time.

Commissioner Kingston shared the history of the bylaws; the work was done by Assistant Manager Kurt and a small committee last year. Commissioner Kingston did not recall any problems in the past year that have come up over the past year.

Commissioner Newell shared she is concerned there is not a formal process for the removal of a commissioner by council. She believes this should be addressed in the bylaws.

Staff Liaison Schaefer shared the Council is elected and has the authority to appoint and unappoint anyone they choose to, because ultimately they are appointing these people to do work on their behalf.

Commissioner Newell felt that the human rights commission should persuade the Council to revise the process.

Commissioner Kingston asked if Commissioner Newell had any specific language she would like to propose.

Commissioner Stanton asked for clarification about the HRRC's bylaws and how, as a subservient group of the Council, they would go about changing the bylaws.

Staff Liaison Schaefer clarified changes would have to be in the form of recommendations to the Council and the Council would have to approve of the change.

Commissioner Stanton stated he agreed there should be due process and transparency.

Commissioner Winnick stated he felt anything the Commission does regarding this can only be in the form of a recommendation to the Council. The focus should be solely on whether or not any member of an Edina Board or Commission receives due process from the Council when the issue of removal is considered. It should have nothing to do with any particular person.

Commissioner Winnick stated if what she is just talking about is just due process, he would support the idea, but felt it should start at the council level, not the EHRRC.

Commissioner Newell stated she believes the human rights commission has a special charter to address issues like this for the City.

Commissioner Kingston made a motion to disband this discussion and deal with a proposal of a process in March. Commissioner Seidman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Winnick stated he will not be here in March and this is an issue he feels very strongly about and would request it be moved to April and that he is willing to serve as a co-chair on a subcommittee with Commissioner Newell on the issue.

Commissioner Kingston amended her motion to move the discussion to April, Commissioner Seidman seconded the motion.

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

Chair Bigbee suggested the Commission come in one hour early to a meeting and have box dinners and use the opportunity to get to know one another.

Commissioner Kingston suggested moving the dinner to April, so all Commissioners can be present.

The Commission will meet at 6 pm for the meeting on April 23rd.

Commissioner Cashmore asked for clarification if it would be City Staff would be included.

Chair Bigbee said the group here, including City Staff.

C. Selection of Administrative Chair

Commissioner Kingston nominated Commissioner Winnick to serve as administrative chair. Commissioner Seidman seconded the nomination.

Commissioner Winnick accepted the nomination.

Chair Bigbee asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, he called for a vote.

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

D. Tom Oye Award Discussion

Commissioner Winnick introduced the Tom Oye Award discussion by reviewing the nominations. The Commission then discussed the nominations.

E. Volunteer Awards Reception

Staff Liaison Schaefer shared the invitation to the April Volunteer Recognition Reception, which was sent to the HRRC from City Manager Neal and is in the packet. There is an opportunity for Commission members or residents to individually nominate individuals for the Mayor's Commendation awards. Send the nominations to Susan Howl.

F. Edina Reads Book Review

Chair Bigbee have an update on the Edina Read event. The event will take place on April 22 from 7-8:30 pm at the Senior Center.

Student Member Stang shared she brought the books to the library and plans to put up a display in the library when it gets closer to the event.

The Commission then held a brief discussion of the book.

G. Monitor Domestic Partner Legislation and the City Ordinance

Commissioner Stanton reviewed the correspondence they received regarding sexual expression as part of our City Ordinance. He found several examples of this being done in other cities, and provided proposed language for the amendment. After hearing about our new member being the one who wrote the correspondence, the Commission decided it may be fitting for her to make the motion at our next meeting.

The Commission tabled the item until the March meeting.

Commissioner Winnick asked about altering subpoint c. of the City Ordinance which currently reads, “Cooperate with the State Department of Human Rights, the State League of Human Rights Commissions and other agencies and programs that relate to the public policy stated herein.”

To read: “Cooperate with the State Department of Human Rights, ~~the State League of Human Rights Commissions and~~ other agencies and commissions in their programs that relate to the public policy stated herein.”

Commissioner Stanton stated he would rather have the gender identity and the agencies/commission issues handled separately so as to not confuse the issues.

Commissioner Newell pointed out there is another point in the ordinance, subpoint c. of the policy statement where it would need to be altered as well.

Commissioner Stanton made a motion to make the changes to the Ordinance, Commissioner Winnick seconded the motion.

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

Chair Bigbee stated he will speak with Chief Long before the next meeting to clarify if there are any legal restrictions that would affect the ordinance change.

Commissioner Stanton shared this week at the legislature there is going to be a bill introduced to legalize same sex marriage. The bill would make other legislative changes, such as domestic partner benefits, moot. This will not be a party line vote. Minnesota United for all Families has asked others who have proposed domestic partner legislation to delay it until there is a vote on gay marriage. If the marriage bill doesn't pass, we have proposed legislation for domestic partner benefits. Both Representative Erhardt and Senator Franzen are both going to work on that legislation, if needed.

H. 2013 Budget

Commissioner Kingston explained the Commission did not receive full funding from the Council because of the biennium budget. There are two events that were competing for funds, the first was for community outreach, which could potentially be used to do something with Fartun Weli. The second was for the Days of Remembrance program with Janet Horvath. Dates are fairly limited now for Janet, so it would have to be April 14th. The Commission would need to nail down a location, and confirm with her this week if they wanted to do the event.

Commissioner Cashmore made a motion to coordinate the bigger event with Janet Horvath in 2014 with Commissioner Cashmore serving as Chair. Commissioner Stanton seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Kingston clarified we are just going to run the videos for Days of Remembrance.

I. Review leaders and draft work plans for each commission initiative.

Commissioner Bigbee suggested moving commission initiative work plans to next month's meeting.

J. 2013 Work Plan

Commissioner Newell shared Fartun Weli will be at next month's meeting to share her proposal. Commissioner Newell has spoken to professors at Hamline about speaking to the EHRRC about the state of legislation and protections for victims of domestic violence. This would have to be April.

Commissioner Winnick requested to move the updating of the Bias/Hate Crime Response Plan from March of each year to May of each year. Commissioner Cashmore is going to work on the plan with Commissioner Winnick this year, with the intention of taking over the response plan.

Chair Bigbee said one other thing to mention is the celebration of the City's 125th anniversary. The Commission should go through and identify what their role is going to be in the celebration.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

There were none.

VIII. CHAIR AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Bigbee shared he is excited to work this next year, there is a lot of information ahead of us.

Commissioner Cashmore asked for the date of the work session with Council.

Chair Bigbee stated it is May 7th.

Staff Liaison Schaefer shared it will probably start at 5:30pm.

Chair Bigbee asked for a reminder to be sent that we are convening an hour early for the April meeting.

IX. STAFF COMMENTS

Staff Liaison Schaefer clarified that two new commissioners will be appointed because Commissioner Erhardt resigned.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business on the Commission Agenda, **Commissioner Winnick moved and Commissioner Seidman seconded adjournment of the meeting.**

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

Chair Bigbee declared the meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes approved by HRRC, March 19, 2013

Ari Klugman, City Manager Intern

Arnie Bigbee, HRRC Chair