

**MINUTES  
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION  
December 11, 2014 7:00 PM  
City Hall – Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Seidman called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Answering roll call were Commissioners Arseneault, Bigbee, Davis, Gates, Kennedy, Sanders, Chair Seidman, Weinert, and Winnick. Staff present: City Management Fellow Lindy Crawford.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Winnick to amend the Regular Meeting Agenda of December 11, 2014 to add affordable housing to item VII. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arseneault. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF October 28, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Arseneault moved to approve the minutes as presented to the HRRC. Commissioner Davis seconded. Motion carried.

V. COMMUNITY COMMENT

None.

VI. GUEST PRESENTER: Christie Nicoson, World Without Genocide Program and Operations Director

Ms. Nicoson shared a presentation with the HRRC about the UN's Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This declaration is considered to be an international Bill of Rights. Ms. Nicoson suggested that by using the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a framework, the HRRC has a tool to guide the Commission in ensuring that all rights are protected.

VII. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Human Rights City Designation Update (Kennedy/Sanders)

Commissioner Kennedy shared a presentation about the history of Human Rights Cities. There are currently five areas in the United States that are recognized Human Rights Cities; this means they are engaged in using the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Kennedy shared what the process is for becoming a Human Rights City, and her thoughts on where the City of Edina is in that process.

B. Days of Remembrance/Genocide Awareness (Seidman)

Chair Seidman shared that the Days of Remembrance/Genocide Awareness title for this year is From Armenians to the Holocaust and will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2015 from 1pm-3:30pm at the Edina City Hall. There will be a Holocaust survivor guest speaker.

C. Community Conversations Update (Bigbee/Davis)

Commissioner Davis updated the HRRC about the Community Conversations working group. Twelve volunteer community members of all ages make up the working group. The group has held listening sessions throughout the community to discover if the city of Edina is a welcoming community. The end of April 2015 is the target date to report back to the HRRC about the progress of Community Conversations.

D. Tom Oye Award Announcement (Winnick)

Commissioner Winnick shared information about the Tom Oye Award and shared the Tom Oye public service announcement. Anyone who lives or works in the city of Edina may receive the Award. Past winners include Ellen Kennedy, Rachel Grenier, Joyce Repya, Kristin Aarsvold, and Tom McCarthy. The HRRRC acts as the selection committee for the Award. January 30, 2015 is the deadline to apply. The application can be found on the City of Edina website.

E. Affordable Housing (Winnick/Bigbee)

Commissioner Winnick noted that he and the HRRRC Student Commissioners Gates and Weinert have reviewed the status of the 66 West affordable housing project for at-risk youth, in their role as the HRRRC committee on Monitoring Affordable Housing. The project is currently in litigation, but a motion to dismiss the lawsuit has been filed on the basis that the suit is premature. Winnick stated the second project the HRRRC committee is monitoring is the affordable housing project located at 7200 France. Motion was made by Commissioner Winnick to approve a statement of support for the 7200 France project to the City Council, Commissioner Bigbee seconded. Commissioner Sanders abstained. Motion carried. Commissioner Bigbee thanked the HRRRC for supporting affordable housing in Edina over the years and would like to see the HRRRC work on affordable housing on an annual basis.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

Chair Seidman asked for comments regarding the correspondence in the meeting packets. Seidman shared that many HRRRC members were at the City Council meeting regarding the Washington Redskins matter, in response to one piece of correspondence that appeared to suggest otherwise.

IX. CHAIR, COMMISSION MEMBER, AND STUDENT COMMENTS

Chair Seidman shared that there have been two incidents with bias offense activity. Seidman met with Police Chief Dave Nelson and City Manager Scott Neal concerning the activity and noted that the Bias Offense Response Plan was followed in each case.

Commissioner Arseneault shared that the Human Services Task Force has completed their work and passed on their recommendations for funding Human Services in 2015 to the City Council. The Council approved the recommendations of the Task Force on their December 2 Consent Agenda. Arseneault encouraged other HRRRC members to volunteer for the Human Services Task Force in the future.

Student Commissioner Gates discussed her interest in working on the issues of body image and sexuality awareness. Gates attended a Gay Student Alliance Club meeting at Edina High School to learn what actions they are taking about this matter.

Student Commissioner Weinert talked about existence of human trafficking in the community. Weinert shared that the community should take action about this matter, and is hopeful the HRRRC can hold educational events related to this matter in March 2015 in order to raise local awareness on the issue.

X. STAFF COMMENTS

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis to adjourn the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, Kennedy seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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MJ Lamon, HRRC Staff Liaison

Minutes approved by HRRC January 27, 2015

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Jan Seidman, HRRC Chair