



To: HRRC

Agenda Item #: VI. A.

From: MJ Lamon Staff Liaison

Action

Date: April 29, 2014

Discussion

Subject: 2014 Workplan Review

Information

Action Requested:

i. **Motion for change in Community Outreach working group members.**

Information / Background:

- i. Community Conversations
 - 1. Next Meeting Dates/Participants Involved
 - 2. Member Changes
 - 3. Next Steps and Marketing
- ii. Days of Remembrance/Genocide Awareness
 - 1. Summary
- iii. Special Needs Awareness
 - 1. Discussion/Motion
- iv. Immigration Reform
 - 1. Discussion/Motion

Attachment:

Community conversations summary. Days of Remembrance/Genocide Awareness summary.

Annie Coyle

From: Arnold Bigbee <arnieb1@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2014 3:22 PM
To: Seidman Janet
Cc: Arseneault Patrice; Annie Coyle; MJ Lamon; Davis Laura; Meehan Katie; Kruger Rick; Rodgers Judith; Meagher Ann
Subject: Community Conversations Workgroup Update

Jan,

This is the update from our group - and it is from Laura Davis and me, co-chairs of this group.

I have also sent along separately, three items:

- 1 notes from our Working Group meetings on March 28/29
- 2j notes from our Working Group meeting on April 10th.
- 3 a copy of my note to the Working Group regarding my falling behind schedule after our April 10th meeting.

Next steps:

- *We will be using Doodle calendars to set our next meeting.
- *We have scheduled the Helen Young Room at Southdale Library for our first Community Conversation from 6 - 9 pm on Tuesday, May 13th.
- *We are reviewing a draft of the "invitation" to join the first Community Conversation. This will be shared with the full Commission when the Working Group members have shared their thoughts about it.
- *We may need other Commission members, who attended the training offered by the Advocates in March, to provide support at the time of the first Conversation .
- *Budget support will be very modest to include water and perhaps tea/coffee and some sweet treats.

As we refine our plans for contacts and target groups to invite, we will work with the City communications staff for guidance.

Our collective sense at this point is that we will have a wealth of ideas about how to proceed after we complete our first Community Conversation.

Laura and I will answer any questions at the April 29th meeting.

Annie Bigbee
arnieb1@me.com
612 804 4660

EHRRC Community Outreach Working Group

Next meeting will be

5:45 - 7:00 pm, Thursday April 10th, City Hall (just prior to the 7:00 pm Days of Remembrance event).

Draft notes consolidated from meetings of March 28 and 29

Our group met in two sections to keep our conversation and momentum of the recent training moving forward.

Arnie, Judith and Katie on 3/28

Arnie and Rick on 3/29

(Laura was unable to meet at either of these times)

The consensus of our conversations was that there are several activities we need to undertake, including:

- Recruiting a diverse group of volunteers
- Recruiting a diverse group of community participants. With 5 of us active on the Working Group, we believe it will be good to add 2-3 more members to our group.
- Training additional volunteers as needed (not an immediate priority)
- Move ahead with activities so we are able to schedule the first community listening session in May of 2014, with attention to day of week, location, time of day, etc. We are especially sensitive to location (public, easily accessible). In some cases, transportation will need to be arranged.
- Crafting invitations that reach intended audiences using whatever mechanisms that give us the best access to invitees and which request a reservation.
- We need to begin devising some criteria or measures which help us determine if we are achieving our goals through this activity.

Draft 3/31/14

HRRC Working Group Meeting Notes (Draft) April 10, 2014

**Present: Judith Rodgers, Katie Meehan, Laura Davis, Arnie Bigbee
Absent: Rick Kruger, Ann Meagher**

We reaffirmed that we want to have the first “Community Conversation” in May of 2014.

Arnie will determine the availability of a meeting room at the Southdale Public Library for the dates of May 13, 15, 20 or 22 for two hours between 6:30 and 9:00 pm.

Katie has drafted an “invitation” which she will circulate via email for suggestions from other working group members by 4/12. We expect to have the Invitation finalized by 4/18.

Final Invitation will be shared with Ric Dressen as a way to request partnership with the School District and to request direction about how best to circulate the Invitation to students and family members.

We identified the following groups/organizations with which we could communicate to encourage community member participation: (we still need volunteers to contact some of these to learn how we can work with them to get the word out about our community conversations events)

- Edina Welcome Center**
- ESL/ELL teachers and volunteers in schools and libraries**
- Edina Resource Center**
- Saturday School (Laura)**
- Edina Community Education**
- Southdale Hospital ER**
- Fire Dept (Arnie)**
- Police Dept (Arnie)**
- Richfield Schools (Arnie)**
- Park and Rec Dept (Arnie)**
- Hopkins Schools (Arnie)**

- **YMCA**
- **Public Library**
- **Edina Senior Center (Katie)**

Arnie will work with Edina support staff to get our working group set up with a Google Docs site for our use.

We will want to continue to push our meeting schedule as aggressively as possible so we can have one Community Conversation event before schools adjourn for the summer.

Arnie will send out a Doodle Calendar to see if we can set another meeting to occur by April 18th.

4/10/14

Days of Remembrance and Genocide Awareness 2014

City of Edina - April 8, 10 and 13. To mark National Days of Remembrance and Genocide Awareness month, the Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission in partnership with World Without Genocide hosted a series of human rights events in April to remember the victims and honor the survivors and liberators of the Holocaust during WWII and other genocides around the world.

Why the City of Edina and Edina Human Rights and Relations hosts these events:

- In 2007, Edina became the third City in the country to pass anti-genocide legislation.
- In 2012, Edina supported a resolution against using “conflict minerals” from the Congo.
- In 2012, the City of Edina approved a proclamation indicating the City of Edina would annually acknowledge National Days of Remembrance (to coincide within the month of the National Holocaust Museum’s observation). We encourage our community members to continue to reflect on the need for respect for all people.
- In 2013, Governor Dayton signed into law a bill that designated every April to be Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month. The bill encourages organizations to sponsor events in April to educate the public and to remember those whose lives and cultures have changed forever.

EHRRC April Human Rights Events

The first part of the series on April 8, included two interactive play: 1) *“Upstanders: Ten who Dared”*. This play describes individuals from around the world who stood up to genocide: including rescuer Oskar Schindler during the Holocaust, Betty Bigombe from Uganda and, General Romeo Dallaire, commander of the United Nations troops in Rwanda during the genocide; 2) *“the Line”* - the story of Sophie Scholl, a young German who was influential in White Rose, a youth resistance movement during WWII. Also included in the evening was resistance music from the holocaust and a candle that was lit to honor victims of genocide around the world.

The second part of the human rights events on Thursday, April 8 featured Dr. Ellen Kennedy. Twenty years ago, more than 800,000 people were killed in a genocide that lasted only a hundred days. Ellen discussed the Rwandan genocide on its 20th anniversary and spoke about current situations in Congo. The event also included a guest appearance from a native of Congo who presented a poem about her experiences both in Congo and here in Minnesota.

The third part of the series on Sunday, April 13 featured guest speaker Fred Amram, retired emeritus professor from University of Minnesota and holocaust survivor. Fred spoke about the atrocities of the Holocaust during WWII and other genocides around the world: Darfur, Congo, Rwanda, North Korea. He brought to life the stories of the Holocaust and genocide victims, heroes and liberators and the impact of the Holocaust on his family. During his presentation, Fred also explained the difference of Upstander vs. Bystanders and the effects of bystanders throughout history.

Attendance and Marketing:

- Over 100 people attended the Days of Remembrance and Genocide Awareness events. In the audience were both survivors and liberators of genocide events.
- Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission partnered with World Without Genocide.
- Starbucks at Edina Galleria donated coffee urns, cups and accessories for all three events.
- Jerry’s In Edina donated cookies for all events.
- Mayor Hovland spoke at two of the events, opening and closing our human rights April series.
- With Annie and MJ’s support, we worked with Jennifer Bennerotte and her staff, Krystal Caron, Scott Denfeld and Dietrich Nissen to market the events using several types of media:

1. Posters were designed and posted throughout Edina, e.g. coffee shops and libraries.
2. Teachers in Edina High School and Valley View Middle school were approached and offered to put posters up in their classrooms and offer extra credit for showing up at our events.
3. Programs and agendas were designed by our communications department and provided during the day of the events.
4. A PSA announcement describing the Days of Remembrance and Genocide Awareness events was videotaped, with Commissioners Seidman and Winnick – which showed throughout the month of April
5. A WWII veteran and liberator, Gene Sylvestre was videotaped and shown on Channel 16
6. Five Holocaust survivor videos are showing on Channel 16 throughout the month of April
7. On our April 13 event, several Holocaust survivors were interviewed. Our goal is to put together a video of their stories for posterity. The most recent event has already appeared on Channel 16.
8. Marketing of our events were posted on: Edina’s Facebook; written up in “Edina” magazine and “About Town” as well as in the Sun Current.