

EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2004

7:00 PM – COMMUNITY ROOM

Members Present

**Mary Brindle
Carol Carmichiel
Jim Campbell
Idelle Longman
Sharon Ming
Eileen Supple
Wayne Prochniak**

Members Absent

**Betsy Flaten
Amy Frankfurt
Janice Joshua
Mel Ogurak
Andy Otness**

Staff

Susan Heiberg

Approval of Minutes

The Commission minutes of October 26, 2004, were amended as follows: 1) delete the last sentence in the Affordable Housing Task Force paragraph; and 2) add Eileen Supple's name within the Senior Commission paragraph. Jim Campbell seconded Mary Brindle's motion to approve the minutes of October 26, 2004, as amended; the motion carried.

Commission Brochure

Mary Brindle shared the newly-revised Commission brochure, with reorganized information on the front cover. Mary Brindle seconded Eileen Supple's motion to approve the brochure for distribution with the following changes: 1) add the phone number for the State Department of Human Rights; 2) delete the name of the Commission Chair; 3) identify the staff liaison as the Commission contact; and 4) verify Maria Giampietro's title. The motion carried.

The Commission discussed places for distribution of the brochures. Possibilities mentioned were: About Town, Chamber of Commerce, School District Administration, City Hall, major employers in Edina, Edina Resource Center, Fairview Southdale Hospital, both libraries, faith community, advisory boards and commissions, and the Edina website.

Request for Funding Form

The new form developed by Mary Brindle will have its final review in December, at which time a calendar change for the proposal process will be discussed.

Human Rights Award

Mary Brindle had the opportunity to review awards given by other commissions—Fergus Falls, Plymouth and Bloomington. The Commission discussed giving an award with defined criteria in the name of Tom Oye. It was suggested that an area be chosen as a focus for an award and possibly around specific days such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Day or International Human Rights Day. Things to keep focused on are the Commission's advisory role to the City Council and the appropriate profile to have in the community. Further discussion is necessary.

Annual Essay Contest

The League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions has announced its Annual Essay Contest for middle school students to write on discrimination experienced or witnessed. This could be a vehicle for connecting with the School District, perhaps as a part of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. Other partners might be the Edina Community Library and Connecting With Kids. Before the December Commission meeting, Idelle Longman will research the background and expectations of this award.

Anti-Bullying Subcommittee

Idelle Longman reported on a television news report regarding a situation at a Minneapolis school playground where a young boy was a victim of bullying. The Commission agreed that there should be further discussion regarding its role and goals on this topic.

Diversity Committee of the School District

Eileen Supple reported that she had recently met with Maria Giampietro and declined continuing participation on this committee. As a result, this would be a new opportunity for another Commission to consider.

Nominating Committee

Betsy Flaten, Amy Frankfurt, Janice Joshua, Mel Ogurak and Andy Otness were named and will be asked to form a Nominating Committee for the purpose of submitting a slate of officers at the January Commission meeting.

Edina Resource Center

Sharon Ming reported that she had recently presented the Resource Center's operating budget to the Community Council. This could also be shared with the Commission at some time. She shared that the local investment of \$110,000 into the Resource Center results in a benefit to the community in the amount of \$800,000.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Prochniak, 1st Vice Chair
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission

WP/sh