

**EDINA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2004**  
**6:30 PM – MAYOR’S CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Members Present**

Mary Brindle  
Jim Campbell  
Betsy Flaten  
Janice Joshua  
Sharon Ming  
Andy Otness  
Wayne Prochniak  
Eileen Supple

**Members Absent**

Carol Carmichiel  
Amy Frankfurt  
Idelle Longman  
Mel Ogurak

**Staff**

Susan Heiberg

**RPC (Research, Planning & Coordination)**

Sharon Ming provided the background information regarding the research, planning and coordination of human services—RPC. Back in 2001, Edina’s resource center and Edina’s RPC were part of a collaborative serving four south Hennepin cities—Eden Prairie, Richfield, Bloomington and Edina. After breaking away from this regional collaborative at the end of 2001, the City and School District pledged to uphold and support the Edina Resource Center in a newly-formed local collaborative. The City then pondered the continuation of the RPC process for Edina. Historically, Edina and the other cities in the collaborative funded this initiative at approximately \$22,000 per city to provide for the research, planning and coordination of human services. The City Council subsequently charged the Human Relations Commission to create a body to continue the function. A grassroots Ad Hoc Committee was created to define and establish an Edina RPC process and structure that would be responsive to the community. Because it was deemed beneficial for Edina to allocate funding to a focused research, planning and coordination of human services, the City allocated \$22,000 in 2003 and again in 2004 toward this local effort. In 2004, the Committee concluded that RPC’s primary area of focus should be affordable housing. Thereafter, Jeanne Massey was hired to help the Committee create an RFP for the implementation of an affordable housing initiative with a \$44,000 budget, which included the amount carried over from 2003. This funding would provide a consultant to create and facilitate an affordable housing task force, while the City would provide in-kind administrative services. The consultant would be accountable to the Ad Hoc Committee of Research, Planning and Coordination. Four consultants have been interviewed for the position.

Because the initiative is expected to take up to 18 months, an additional \$22,000 is being proposed for 2005. The consultant will implement public involvement, citizen input, events and communications. Expected outcomes would be the creation of an ongoing tool/group for affordable housing efforts and leadership, the securing of partners to promote affordable housing and identify sources of funding, and the development of potential housing strategies.

### Approval of Minutes

The Commission minutes of May 25, 2004, were amended to say the following in the paragraph entitled Citywide Book-Reading Event: “Wayne Prochniak’s idea of a city-wide book-reading event was shared with the School District about a year ago, and the District recently responded with a suggestion that the theme be ‘diversity.’” Sharon Ming seconded the motion of Eileen Supple to amend the minutes as presented; the motion carried.

### Proposals for Funding

Each Commissioner recorded questions regarding the proposals assigned to each one of them. The answers would be fielded back to the City to be dispersed before the hearing on July 20<sup>th</sup>, when nine human services providers will share their requests for 2005 funding.

### Racial Diversity

Mary Brindle reported that there is little racial diversity within Edina organizations, specifically Morningside Rotary. The puzzlement is how to create a diverse environment in a primarily homogenous community.

### Citywide Book-Reading Event

Andy Otness reported that the Friends of the Edina Library were looking into an August citywide book-reading event. Wayne Prochniak suggested that this be driven by the School District, and he will connect with Laura T. Nelson. Betsy Flaten indicated that she will contact Maria Giampietro, Director of Administrative Services for Teaching and Learning for the School District, and she will find out what other communities are doing.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Flaten, Chair  
Edina Human Relations Commission

BF/sh