

EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2004

7:00 PM – MAYOR’S CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present

**Mary Brindle
Carol Carmichiel
Amy Frankfurt
Janice Joshua
Sharon Ming
Mel Ogurak
Andy Otness
Wayne Prochniak
Eileen Supple**

Members Absent

**Jim Campbell
Betsy Flaten
Idelle Longman**

Staff

Susan Heiberg

Approval of Minutes

Mary Brindle seconded Eileen Supple’s motion to approve the Commission minutes of July 20, 2004; the motion carried. Andy Otness seconded Mel Ogurak’s motion to approve the Commission minutes of July 27, 2004; the motion carried.

Bullying Subcommittee

Amy Frankfurt reported that she helped to develop a bullying survey that was distributed at a local middle school. 35 per cent of these students indicated that they had experienced bullying or did not feel safe. Amy met with the Middle School Climate Committee who was concerned with these numbers. The bus was commonly mentioned as a place where students did not feel safe. As a result, Amy and Betsy Flaten met with Kathy Iverson, Alice Randall and the School’s Chemical/Mental Health Coordinator to look at best practices for ways to intervene about raising the conscience of youth. A next step might be to connect the bullying subcommittee with the Police Department and look at ways to get more people interested. With a core group and a game plan, funding strategies could be investigated. A significant event might be a presentation by the Improv Group. It is important to acquire climate data.

Senior Commission

Eileen Supple reported that the senior subcommittee met four times without developing a recommendation. It was believed that a senior commission might be premature at this time. A community-wide group could be appointed by the City Council to study the issue and to look at a vision. It was agreed that a joint meeting with the City Council should be held next April. Eileen Supple, Mary Brindle, Andy Otness and Betsy Flaten will try to meet with Jim Hovland before the November election to discuss a plan for meeting with the new Council members.

Human Rights Award

Mary Brindle and Wayne Prochniak will meet to discuss and plan a human rights award in recognition of Tom Oye. This would be awarded at the spring Volunteer Recognition Reception held in April. A report will be given at the November meeting.

School District Plan.

While the Human Right & Relations Commission has updated its Hate/Bias Crime Response Plan, the School District has no plan in place. Chace Anderson and Maria Giampietro have been working on this, and a draft plan is currently being reviewed. The plan will go from the Executive Committee to the School Board for final approval.

2005 Human Services Budget

Because of the lifting of levy limits and the subsequent need to restrain expenditures for an overall reasonable budget, the City Council has indicated that a 3% increase is a likely increase for the 2005 human services budget. Therefore, the budget would be \$80,678 instead of the Commission's recommendation of \$82,240. The same percentage increase would apply to the Resource Center--\$33,372—and RPC--\$22,736.

Eileen Supple seconded Sharon Ming's motion that the Commission adopt the revised 2005 Human Services budget, the Resource Center budget, and RPC which all reflect a 3% increase, and that the difference in the Human Serves budget from the original proposed amount be allocated pro rata; the motion carried.

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