

**EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2005  
7:00 PM – MAYOR’S CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Members Present**

**Carol Carmichiel  
Betsy Flaten  
Amy Frankfurt  
Idelle Longman  
Debby McNeil  
Andy Otness  
Wayne Prochniak  
Eileen Supple**

**Members Absent**

**Mary Brindle  
Jim Campbell  
John Goetz  
Sharon Ming  
Jennifer Watkins, Student**

**Staff**

**Susan Heiberg**

**Approval of Minutes**

**Member Carmichiel seconded the motion of Member Otness to approve the minutes of June 28, 2005; the motion carried.**

**Member Otness seconded the motion of Member Supple to approve the minutes of July 19, 2005; the motion carried.**

**Nominating Committee**

**Members Carmichiel, Longman and Supple agreed to become the Nominating Committee and to bring a slate of officers to the January Commission meeting.**

**CDBG Funding**

**Members Flaten, Otness and Ming, in absentia, will take on the duties of a CDBG Committee. They will meet with the City’s Associate Planner, Joyce Repya, in order to prepare for the December meeting. Two questions regarding CDBG funding were raised:**

- **Are we able to broaden the scope?**
- **How are the funds actually used, and what is the process?**

**Additional information will be provided so that the Commissioners will be prepared to review and “speak” regarding the proposed CDBG budget to be approved by the City Council.**

**HRRC Annual Award**

**Members Frankfurt, McNeil and Brindle, in absentia, will become a committee to work through the process:**

- **Get the press release out.**
- **Review the nominations when they come in.**
- **Bring recommendations to the February Commission meeting for the award winner.**
- **Decide WHAT the award will physically be.**
- **Plan how to present it at the April Volunteer Awards Reception.**
- **Research to see what and how other communities participate in this type of recognition and if it ever involves city councils.**

### Anti-Bullying Project

Member Frankfurt reported that the School District is considering a proposal from the Diversity Council to create an Anti-Bullying Committee.

Member Longman reported that Tolerance Minnesota is part of the Jewish Community Relations Council's diversity education initiative. In this effort, 21 schools in Washington County will be involved and will be told of the danger of bullying in the schools and in the community.

It was suggested that the first outreach activity of the Commission's projects be on diversity and anti-bullying.

### "A Conversation About Diversity in Edina"

Member Otness reported that there was a mix of people at the October 17<sup>th</sup> event with Dr. Ghafar Lakanwal.

- There were 47 attendees, including two City Council Members.
- People enjoyed hearing the story of Ghafar's life.
- It was evident that story-telling brings about an emotional response.
- This was an appreciated opportunity to discuss diversity in Edina.

The Commission agreed that the dialogue needs to be continued in the community, with a speaker who could talk about diversity and bullying at the same time. It was suggested that the School District be approached to consider being a joint sponsor for another event, especially helping with publicity. The purpose of the event would be to look at all three major issues—bullying, harassment and tolerance—and to ask the question "What does diversity mean to YOU?"

### Commission Projects

A possible project that the Commission could sponsor would be an essay contest regarding diversity, following a panel discussion. It was also suggested that the Anti-Bullying Committee work on a community-wide discussion. The Commission should target two events for next year, including a follow-up on the Housing Task Force report. There was a reminder of the recommendation that the Commission collaborate with Connecting With Kids regarding a topic such as diversity.

The Commissioners were encouraged to brainstorm steps to take regarding projects for 2006 and to share ideas at the next meeting.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Prochniak, Chair  
Edina Human Right & Relations Commission

WP/sh