

EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2005
7:00 PM - MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present

Mary Brindle
Jim Campbell
Betsy Flaten
Idelle Longman
Debby McNeil
Sharon Ming
Andy Otness
Wayne Prochniak
Eileen Supple

Members Absent

Carol Carmichiel
Amy Frankfurt
John Goetz

Guests

Doug Mayo
John Helling

Student

Jennifer Watkins

Staff

Susan Heiberg

Doug Mayo, Chair of the Edina Housing Task Force, was introduced and welcomed. Another Task Force Member, John Helling, was welcomed as well. Doug shared the following:

- The Task Force—approximately 20 members—has been meeting twice monthly for one and one-half years. The consultants are now working on a third draft for the January meeting, with an eye on producing the final draft by the end of the month.
- An idea overlying the group's objectives is that diversity is enriching and healthy for the community—in both age and ethnicity.
- The Task Force was provided the opportunity to review research, best practices, changing demographics and housing stock. As a result, guidelines, values and principles were developed for the group's mission.
- The Task Force is emphasizing best practices, values and principles, defining affordable housing, financial strategies, development/redevelopment guidelines, educational resources, community input, and potential partnerships.
- The Task Force is looking at the feasibility of establishing an ongoing community group for leadership, such as a housing commission, which would oversee the implementation of the Task Force's recommendations and establish ways to measure progress.
- The Task Force has established a plan for vetting the draft to community groups or individuals who would be interested in making comments. HRRC is the first group to whom the draft is being presented for feedback!

The following reactions to the draft were shared by the Commissioners:

- Refrain from emphasizing that the Task Force is looking for a “buy-in” from the community but instead look for readers to make comments and share ideas as well as concerns.
- Include the Council Members in the vetting process.
- Include an executive summary along with the strategies at the front of the draft.
- Assuming that the target or goal would be motivating, is it therefore best to “make the case” first and followed by the strategies?
- Accountability should be built in by identifying the goals and measuring the progress.
- Would inclusionary zoning mean being able to “control” development in this realm?
- We need to ensure that Edina attracts hard-working families and seniors and does not become an enclave for the super rich.

- The Task Force should go out and talk to those who might disagree with the mission.
- Demographic trends are a concern. Life-cycle housing should be addressed so that Edina remains a vital community.
- The draft could be titled “Housing Succession Plan.”
- It appears that there is a need to reshape the market forces.

Mr.’s Mayo and Helling were thanked for attending the meeting.

Anti-Bullying Committee

Member Longman reported that James Backstrom, Dakota County attorney, could only attend meetings as a speaker in Dakota County; therefore, his office will send materials to the Commission. Mrs. Longman shared that the public health committee, as part of Hennepin County, is running anti-bullying initiatives in the schools.

Essay Contest

Member Longman reported that the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions will once again be hosting an essay contest. Member Brindle shared that she is a part of Connecting With Kids (CWK) and that this might be a good collaborative event with HRRC. Member McNeil seconded Member Brindle’s motion that HRRC co-sponsor an essay contest with CWK for middle school students during the 06-07 school year focusing on human rights; the motion carried. Member Brindle will follow up with CWK regarding this opportunity. The school’s Diversity Council could be involved as well.

Approval of Minutes

Member Supple seconded Member McNeil’s motion to approve the minutes of November 22, 2005, with amendments regarding the Nominating Committee and attendance; the motion carried.

CDBG Funding

Member Ming reported that the Community Development Block Grant funds are federal dollars of which the human services portion is reviewed and recommended by the Commission on behalf of the Planning Department’s presentation to the City Council for final approval. She indicated that Ms. Repya, Associate Planner, shared that the 2006 CDBG budget would likely be reduced by 9% over last year’s budget. Based on that estimated budget, Member Otness seconded the suggested amounts and total as presented by Member Ming for CDBG funding of the following service providers, with any additional funding distributed pro rata:

H.O.M.E.	9,280
GMDCA	8,000
CAPSH	5,000
HomeLine	<u>1,246</u>
TOTAL	23,526

The motion carried.

Annual Award Committee

Member Brindle reported that the sub-committee would continue to research the possibility of some kind of human rights award—specifically, when and where to present it, and how to publicize it. The Golden Valley’s Commission would be a helpful source for information.

Multi-Cultural Group

Student Jennifer Watkins reported that she connected with the students of the Multi-Cultural Group and that their busy schedule might prevent them from meeting with HRRC. Additionally, Jennifer shared that she linked Rachael Pream Grenier, Youth Development-Youth Service Manager, with Alice Randall in order to retrieve the intergenerational video done by CWK.

January Meeting

Because the next meeting will be the last one for Members Flaten and Supple, it was suggested that the Commissioners gather for dinner beforehand. Details regarding time and place will be forthcoming.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Prochniak, Chair
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission

WP/sh