

**EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2005  
7:00 PM – MAYOR’S CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Members Present**

**Mary Brindle  
Jim Campbell  
Carol Carmichiel  
Betsy Flaten  
Amy Frankfurt  
John Goetz  
Debby McNeil  
Andy Otness  
Wayne Prochniak  
Eileen Supple**

**Members Absent**

**Idelle Longman  
Sharon Ming**

**Guest**

**Val Burke**

**Student**

**Jennifer Watkins**

**Staff**

**Susan Heiberg**

**Val Burke, the Edina Resource Center Coordinator, was introduced and welcomed. She reported to the Commission that the Center has been in operation since 1997 when it was part of the South Hennepin Human Services Collaborative, which later became Hennepin South Services Collaborative (HSSC). Due to a consensus that the community would be better served by a local family services collaborative, the City gave its intent in November of 2001 to withdraw from HSSC subject to similar action by the School District, which subsequently came to pass with the formal withdrawal concluded in May of 2002. Val explained that the Resource Center’s structure is a collaborative model, with in-kind staff contributed by partner agencies such as Hennepin County, the School District, the City of Edina, Bloomington Public Health and Fairview Southdale Hospital. The Center’s goal is to connect people to information, services and resources while providing connections, critical links, confidential service and follow-up. The work of the Center is family focused, community-based and comprehensive within a framework of collaboration and the leveraging of resources. The service is strength-based and uses both formal and informal supports. Val reported that the Community Council is a steering committee for the local collaborative and guides the operations of the Resource Center. Its 19 members are representatives of the City, the Schools, CASH and the Council at large. The Council’s mission is to be a catalyst for community efforts to strengthen individuals and families in Edina, with responsibilities including the fiscal responsibility for LCTS spending, assessing human service strengths and needs, and prioritizing community goals to strengthen families. Val explained that the Resource Center’s revenues come from School District LCTS funds, the City of Edina, Alliance grants and administration, and other grants and fundraising. Resources are leveraged through partnerships, such as the West Hennepin Mental Health Assessment Project with a \$50,000 grant from the County. This project creates a partnership between seven collaboratives and their respective police departments, with youth referred for an assessment as a diversion option rather than going to juvenile court. In conclusion, the Resource Center and the Community Council together create a safety net of community information, resources and services.**

### Approval of Minutes

Member McNeil seconded Member Flaten's motion to approve the Commission minutes of April 26, 2005; the motion carried.

### Human Rights/Relations Award

Member Brindle presented a nominations form and press release as a consideration to create a Human Rights and Relations Award. Both were discussed, and some changes were recommended. The format and place for presenting this possible award were discussed, and a suggestion was during the City's annual Volunteer Recognition Reception at Edinborough Park.

Member Flaten seconded Member Prochniak's motion to establish a Human Rights and Relations Award process with a nominations form; the motion carried.

Member Flaten seconded Member Prochniak's motion that the award be presented at the Volunteer Recognition Reception in 2006; the motion carried.

Member Flaten seconded Member Prochniak's motion that a subcommittee be established to come to the September Commission with a process to present; the motion carried. Member Brindle and student representative, Watkins, agreed to serve on the subcommittee.

### Anti-Bullying Project

Member Frankfurt distributed two handouts: 1) Proposed '05 Mission of the Anti-Bullying Subcommittee of the Edina HRRC; and 2) Middle School Staff Opinion Survey Responses 2003. It was pointed out that Member Frankfurt is a liaison to the Schools Diversity Council and that Member Brindle is a liaison to the Connecting with Kids Initiative. Member Flaten has already met with the elementary school principals to discuss their efforts as they deal with bullying in the schools. Cyber bullying and other electronic bullying that occurs off school property were mentioned as areas of concern. It was suggested that the Commission help to sponsor a community forum with the School District, having an expert speaker discuss the issues of bullying and how to protect a child from electronic bullying.

Member Flaten seconded Member Prochniak's motion that the sub-committee explore how HRRC can support the school's effort to control cyber bullying and other electronic bullying that occurs off school property; the motion carried. Members Brindle and Frankfurt will continue to serve in this capacity and report back to the Commission.

### Approval of Strategic Plan

Member Otness seconded Member Flaten's motion to approve numbers I through IV of the Commission's Strategic Plan; the motion carried. Number V is projects, and it will change year after year. The list of 2005 projects will be reviewed at the next Commission meeting.

### Human Services Funding Process

The following assignments were made, with Commissioners taking the responsibility for specific funding proposals in order to make connections with the providers and get questions answered:

- ABC – McNeil & Watkins
- The Bridge – Frankfurt
- Normandale Ministry for Healing & Wholeness – Brindle
- Senior Community Services – Otness
- Women in Transition – Prochniak
- Neighborhood Partnerships – Campbell
- Store to Door – Carmichiel & Supple
- Ready for Success – Supple
- VEAP – Flaten
- Minneapolis Mediation Program – Goetz
- Cornerstone – Ming

The Commissioners will review all of the proposals and come with questions to the June Commission meeting. Edina Resource Center’s proposal will be included in the process, and RPC will also be discussed at the June meeting.

#### Edina Reads Steering Committee

Member Otness reported that the *Edina Reads* Steering Committee—led by Marcia Wattson, Dick Crockett, and the editor of the Sun-Current—has announced that the community-wide reading event will be this October, with the book being “The Kite Runner.” The Committee is inviting HRRC to sponsor a speaker as the concluding activity, and it would be held at the Southdale Library Community Room on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Member McNeil seconded Member Prochniak’s motion that Member Frankfurt be the Commission’s liaison to the *Edina Reads* Steering Committee, and with the assistance of Student Representative Watkins, explore possible speakers for the November event; the motion carried. The Executive Director of the MultiCultural Development Center, A. Ghafar Lakanwal, was suggested as a speaker. Member McNeil offered to facilitate a book discussion during the event.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Prochniak, Chair  
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission

WP/sh