

EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2005
7:00 PM – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Members Present

Jim Campbell
Amy Frankfurt
Idelle Longman
Debby McNeil
Sharon Ming
Andy Otness
Wayne Prochniak

Members Absent

Mary Brindle
Carol Carmichiel
Betsy Flaten
John Goetz
Eileen Supple

Student

Jennifer Watkins

Staff

Susan Heiberg

Guests

Doug Johnson
Alice Randall

The Commission introduced and welcomed Edina Community Education guests, Doug Johnson and Alice Randall. The CWK (Connecting With Kids) intergenerational DVD was not compatible with the equipment in the Chambers. As a result, a brief overview of CWK initiatives was mentioned:

- Community-Wide Leadership Breakfast at Braemar with Pastor Tony Jones
- Edina Unplugged
- HealthEdina

CWK packets were distributed, and it was mutually agreed that HRRC and CWK should together discuss diversity in Edina.

Edina Reads

Member Frankfurt reported that on October 17th HRRC will sponsor Dr. Ghafar Lakanwal, an Afghan immigrant, as the speaker at the event entitled “A Conversation about Diversity in Edina. It will be held in the Council Chambers from 7:30 until 9 PM, and it is one of the events occurring in the City-wide initiative “Edina Reads” during October. The following issues were addressed:

- Member Otness will prepare a letter of invitation to be sent to community organizations, including the MultiCultural Club, the Community Council and other names submitted by the Commission
- The Commission’s brochure entitled “Discrimination and Bias/Hate Crimes—A Citizen’s Guide” will be available for people when they enter the Chambers.
- A program will be printed, including information regarding Ghafar.
- HRRC members were encouraged to attend and arrive early to meet with Ghafar.
- Pre-printed cards will be available for attendees’ response regarding the event and their contact information.

It’s Time to Talk Forum

It was reported that the City will not be sponsoring a table at the event entitled “It’s Time to Talk Forum on Race 2005.” The event will be held on November 2nd at the downtown Hyatt Regency, and the cost is \$500 for a table.

City Council Budget Hearing

Member Prochniak presented the proposed human services budget to the City Council on August 16th, 2005. There had been discussion by the Council Members concerning the funding request for ABC and the fact that this could be categorized as charitable giving, which legally is not advisable. As a result, Member Otness seconded Member Ming's proposal to withdraw the ABC proposal for one-time funding in 2006, and that this amount of \$1000 would therefore be redistributed pro rata among the nine other proposals for 2006 human services funding; the motion carried.

Bias/Hate Crime Report

It was reported to the Commission that a door-to-door salesman in Edina was accosted by an intoxicated man using biased slander. There were two witnesses at the scene. This man was arrested and charged for the hate crime, as well as drunkenness and a DWI. Because he was visiting a friend and was not an Edina resident, this was deemed a pass-through event. Police Chief Siitari asked the salesman if he would like to meet with HRRC, and he declined. The Commissioners concurred that there was no action to be taken.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Prochniak, Chair
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission

WP/sh