

EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2006
7:00 PM - MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present

Mary Brindle
Carol Carmichiel
Betsy Flaten
Amy Frankfurt
John Goetz
Debby McNeil
Sharon Ming
Andy Otness
Wayne Prochniak
Eileen Supple

Members Absent

Jim Campbell
Idelle Longman

Guests

Kathy Iverson
Emery Erickson

Staff

Susan Heiberg

Kathy Iverson, representing the Edina League of Women Voters, visited the meeting to collect the surveys previously distributed to all advisory board and commission members. Based on information received, the League plans to educate Edina residents on the role of boards and commissions and how citizens can participate in local government. As a result, a report will be prepared and shared with the Commissioners. Ms. Iverson was thanked for her good work, which also encompasses the Edina Chemical Health Partners.

Member McNeil introduced her neighbor, Emery Erickson, as a visitor and observer of the Commission meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Member Supple seconded Member Brindle's motion to approve the minutes of December 20, 2005; the motion carried.

Recognition

Member Ming seconded Member Otness' motion that the Commission formally recognize and thank the retiring three Commissioners—Carol Carmichiel, Betsy Flaten and Eileen Supple—for their years of service and their numerous contributions to the work of the Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission; the motion carried.

Appreciation

Member Brindle seconded Member Supple's motion that the Commission formally recognize and thank Wayne Prochniak for his two years as Chair of the Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission; the motion carried.

Slate of Officers

Member Goetz seconded Member Flaten's motion to approve the following slate of officers as submitted by the Nominating Committee:

- Chair, Mary Brindle
- 1st Vice Chair, Debby McNeil
- 2nd Vice Chair, Idelle Longman

The motion carried.

Anti-Bullying Committee

The discussion centered on tabling the Committee for the time-being. There is no action that can or should be taken on behalf of the Commission regarding the issue of bullying in the community. By watching and being observant, the Commission might be able to seize the moment—benefiting from a window of opportunity to create an educational experience for the community. The Commissioners learned that the principal of Valley View had an all-school presentation on the issues of bullying.

With no active projects at this time, the Commissioners agreed that there is no need for the Committee to continue meeting. Member Brindle seconded Member Frankfurt's motion that the Committee become inactive; the motion carried.

Annual Award Committee

Members Brindle, Frankfurt, Longman and McNeil presented material that would promote a Human Rights Award in the community. It was agreed that nominees would have to live and work in Edina. The award might be a Lucite paperweight with the City seal.

Member Ming seconded Member Flaten's motion that the award become "the Tom Oye Award", with the approval of his family; the motion carried.

A distribution list—including the Chamber, service clubs, school and the Sun-Current—will be created for the solicitation of award nominations. Member McNeil seconded Member Flaten's motion that there be a concerted effort to secure nominations in order to find out if the community is interested; the motion carried.

Volunteer Recognition Reception

Member Otness seconded Member McNeil's motion to discuss involvement at the Volunteer Recognition Reception at the February Commission meeting; the motion carried.

"Great Conversations"

Member Prochniak shared that the College of Continuing Education at the University of Minnesota provides a series of four events in 2006 entitled "Great Conversations." It is an opportunity to be in the Concert Hall on campus as an active listener during a dialogue between a University faculty member and a world-renowned expert on a particular issue. An upcoming pertinent dialogue is "The Future of Affordable Housing," which will be held on March 28th at 7:30 PM. It would be a conflict for HRRC Members to attend, as that is the night of the March Commission meeting.

Member McNeil seconded Member Ming's motion to change the date of the March Commission meeting to Tuesday, March 21st, in order to accommodate Members who choose to attend "Great Conversations"; the motion carried.

Edina School District Data

Member McNeil shared that 13% of students enrolled this year in Edina schools are of color—a total of 988. Open enrollment has contributed to this increase.

Housing Task Force

Member Ming reported that the Task Force Members are still working on the draft to share with 12 readers in the community and six courtesy readers. She indicated that Doug

Johnson, another Task Force member and Director of Community Education, is targeting April 27th as a collaborative venture for a community forum on affordable housing. The collaboration would consist of the School District, the City of Edina, the Affordable Housing Initiative and the Housing Task Force.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding

Member Ming shared that the County money allocated to the City's CDBG budget had not been cut after all. Instead, Edina received two to three percent more in funding, and the increase designated for human services will be distributed pro rata.

New Superintendent of the Edina School District

Member Prochniak encouraged the Commission to consider planning a time to meet with the School District's new Superintendent. Perhaps this could be a combined effort with another group or commission. The idea will be discussed at the February Commission meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Prochniak, Chair
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission

WP/sh