

EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2006

7:00 PM - MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present

Mary Brindle
Jim Campbell
Amy Frankfurt
Idelle Longman
Debby McNeil
Sharon Ming
Andy Otness
Wayne Prochniak
Dan Rasmus

Members Absent

John Goetz

Guests

Two Boy Scouts

Student

Jennifer Watkins

Staff

Susan Heiberg

Dan Rasmus, a newly-appointed Commission Member, was welcomed. He has lived in Edina for 13 years and has served on the Recycling Commission.

Approval of Minutes

Member Otness seconded Member Longman's motion to approve the minutes of January 24, 2006; the motion carried.

Human Rights Award

The press release for the newly-created Edina Human Rights Award went out at the end of January into the hands of the Sun-Current, the School District, City of Edina website, the faith community and the service clubs. The nominations are due on March 1st. The committee, made up of Members Brindle, Longman and McNeil, will then select the recipient to receive the award at Volunteer Recognition on April 24th. Commissioners were encouraged to submit nominations on their own for any they deem worthy of receiving this award in the honor of the late Tom Oye.

Volunteer Recognition

The Commission discussed participating in the Volunteer Recognition Reception to be held at Edinborough Park on April 24th. In doing so, a particular person or people would be recognized during the program on behalf of the Commission.

Member Otness seconded Member Prochniak's motion to recognize Doug Mayo and Jennifer Watkins. After much discussion around the table, no vote was taken.

Member Campbell seconded Member McNeil's motion to table the former motion in order to give the Commissioners until the next meeting to revisit the matter at hand; the motion carried. They were encouraged to bring names to the table in March.

Orientation Packet

The following are items to be prepared for an updated orientation packet:

- Strategic Plan and Bylaws
- Roster and Terms of Office
- Section 140 of City Code and Term Limits Amendment
- Annual Calendar and Projects Update
- Bias/Hate Crime Response & Prevention Plan
- Human Services Funding History
- Commission Minutes

Member Otness volunteered to help coordinate the update of materials for this packet.

Housing Task Force

Member Ming reported that the three consultants have been busy at work and that the editing group has readied the draft to take to the selected readers. The readers will respond to questions and report back with their comments by March 6th. At the next Task Force meeting, the work of a new committee—Outreach and Communications Group—will be discussed. Ms. Becker, one of the consultants, is putting together a budget and timeline for Phase II, with the understanding that there is \$23,000 left in 2006. Fundraising may have to be undertaken. Joyce Repya is looking into the East Edina Housing Foundation as a source of funding to bring the consultants' work to completion. Now is the opportunity to discuss the report and pull it together for the City Council to review before the April 27th event—when the report will be presented to the community. The entire process may not be wrapped up until September. The Task Force itself has been meeting since November of 2004.

Essay Contest

Member Longman shared that the idea of an Essay Contest was mentioned to the Connecting With Kids Committee and was well received. Another suggestion was to couple the contest with the Intergenerational Dialogue which had been a successful event last year, and also possibly connect with Edina Reads. Apparently, the contest would not be limited to a particular topic. Member Longman will research the last five topics of contests held by the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions.

Joint Meeting with the School Board

The Commission agreed that it is important to create a strong partnership with the School Board and to support the incoming superintendent while sending off Dr. Dragseth with words of appreciation.

Member McNeil seconded Member Otness' following motion:

- That a thank-you letter be sent to Dr. Dragseth referencing appreciation for his support and strong leadership; and
- That a meeting be initiated by the Commission with Dr. Dragseth and the new superintendent before a School Board meeting to encourage a continuing positive relationship between the Commission and the School Board; and
- That these back-to-back meetings—one with Dr. Dragseth and the new Superintendent, and the other with the School Board—be held before June 30th, at the discretion of Dr. Dragseth; the motion carried.

Anti-Bullying Report

Member Longman reported that a police officer from the City of Woodbury developed a program on internet bullying, safety issues and internet crimes. This might be an area for the PCN to tackle.

Senior Expo

Member Otness shared that the Edina Federated Women's Club, the Edina Community Foundation and the Edina Resource Center are sponsoring a Senior Expo on the morning of April 25th at Colonial Church. This event is an outgrowth of the Senior Study undertaken in 2003 by HRRC.

Intergenerational Event

In a tribute to Mozart's music on his 250th birthday, Member Frankfurt shared that the Edina Chorale, the Concert Choir and the Chamber Orchestra will be performing together on March 19th at the High School.

Edina Chemical Health Partners (ECHP)

ECHP is asking that a representative of HRRC join them as a replacement for retiring Member Flaten. Their meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 AM at Davanni's. The Commissioners were asked to consider this for discussion at the March Commission meeting.

Edina Unplugged

The Commissioners were reminded that Edina Unplugged was happening on March 13. with the hope that families will spend time together rather than going to meetings, practices and doing homework. Its purpose is to consider the impact of over-scheduling on families and children.

Forum on Teen Parties

An additional reminder for the Commission was the forum on March 14th regarding teen parties, alcohol and the law. It will have a panel of experts—Police, attorney, chemical health coordinator, and a social worker.

April Commission Meeting

Member Prochniak seconded Member Longman's motion that the April Commission meeting be changed to April 18th to allow participation at a forum with the Health Commissioner on April 25th; the motion carried.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Brindle, Chair
Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission

MB/sh