

EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2007
7:00 PM - BOARD ROOM OF VEAP

Members Present

Luis Bartolomei
Mary Brindle
Emery Erickson
Idelle Longman
JoAnn McGuire
Debby McNeil
Andy Otness
Wayne Prochniak

Members Absent

Sharon Ming
Sarah Ratner
Hamdi Yusuf

Staff

Susan Heiberg

Approval of Minutes

Member Otness seconded the motion of Member Erickson to approve the minutes of June 26, 2007; the motion carried.

Member Otness seconded the motion of Member Longman to approve the minutes of July 24, 2007; the motion carried.

Member Prochniak seconded the motion of Member Longman to approve the minutes of July 31, 2007; the motion carried.

Member Erickson seconded the motion of Member Bartolomei to approve the minutes of September 25, 2007; the motion carried.

City Council Budget Hearing

Chair Brindle reported that the 2008 proposed human services budget was presented to the City Council in August. With no questions or concerns at that time, it can be assumed that the proposal was favorably received. However, everything would be formally approved at the Truth in Taxation hearing on December 3rd.

Community Conversations

Depending on the order of business at upcoming meetings, the DVD from the 2006 diversity dialogue entitled "Edina Without Walls" could be viewed. It is about cultural diversity and breaking down unnecessary barriers that people have created. With a discussion guide that is included, the entire viewing would take 30 to 40 minutes. The next type of community conversations will be held again in three years.

Housing Succession Plan

It was reported that the Housing Succession Plan was folding into the updated Comprehensive Plan. As a result, an increased interest in new housing projects is anticipated.

CDBG

A meeting comparable to a briefing will be scheduled with Joyce Repya, the City's Associate Planner, regarding Community Development Block Grant funding in 2008. Members Bartolomei, Erickson and Ming will attend.

Commission Brochure

Jennifer Bennerotte, the City's Director of Communications, will lead the design effort for the creation of a Human Rights & Relations Commission brochure. Chair Brindle and Member McGuire will coordinate the work with Jennifer.

RPC

Before Member Ming retires from the Commission, it is anticipated that her expertise in the area of RPC—the research, planning and coordination of human services—will be taken to heart and embraced by the Commission for the sake of moving forward and being proactive in tackling unmet needs in the community. As a result, Members McGuire and Erickson will “shadow” Member Ming as she attempts to tutor them in the network of human services’ systems and delivery.

HRRRC Accomplishments and Activities

The Members brainstormed ideas regarding how to get the word out to the community regarding the work of the Commission:

- A press release in the Sun Current
- A Tom Oye Award plaque at City Hall
- A written report to the City Council from 2003 to the present—adding statistics where necessary and pin-pointing specific dates
- Tie the press release into the report to the City Council
- A feature article on the Commission

Senior Expo

The Senior Expo held on October 9th at Colonial Church was a success. There were 61 vendors, and over 200 people attended. The keynote speaker was Warren Wolfe from the Star Tribune. Much positive feedback was shared. The money collected from the vendors’ exhibitions will become grants issued by the Community Foundation.

Conference

Member Longman shared that the conference of the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions at Onamia on September 29th was a successful event. Approximately 300 people were there. She reminded the Commissioners about Human Rights Day on December 7th, with Mike Farrell being the keynote speaker.

Open Seats on the Commission

Chair Brindle reminded the Members that there are two empty School Board appointments on the Commission and that the School Board has been encouraged to fill them. She suggested that the Commissioners be open to possible candidates as they travel around the community—always ready to consider someone to be submitted to the School District for a possible filling of one of the empty positions.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Brindle, Chair
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission

MB/sh