

HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2007
7:00 PM - MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present

Luis Bartolomei
Mary Brindle
Emery Erickson
Idelle Longman
JoAnn McGuire
Sharon Ming

Members Absent

Debby McNeil
Lindah Mhando
Andy Otness
Wayne Prochniak
Mike Stolee

Guest

Tony Branch

Student

Hamdi Yusuf

Staff

Susan Heiberg

Approval of Minutes

Member Longman seconded Member Erickson's motion to approve the minutes of January 23, 2007; the motion carried.

Orientation Booklets

Orientation booklets were given to the new Members—Bartolomei and McGuire—and new material distributed to everyone else for updating their booklets.

RPC - Research, Planning & Coordination of Human Services

Member Ming provided a verbal history of RPC and a detailed explanation of its purpose and function.

- Edina was in a South Hennepin collaborative with Richfield, Eden Prairie and Bloomington—with funding from each city and matching funds from Hennepin County.
- Within the collaborative, research was done through SHeRPA—South Hennepin Regional Planning Agency.
- FamiLink evolved from SHeRPA, with a resource center located in each of the four cities. The model defined a network, which included the coordination of providers and the creation of support teams.
- Edina pulled out of the regional collaborative in 2002, set up its own resource center and convened a study group to look at grass roots issues in the city to consider for RPC.
- An Ad Hoc Committee was formed late in 2002 to survey the community through an open process in order to identify two to five issues for research, planning and coordination—with a goal of determining one issue to focus on for the first RPC cycle.
- Affordable housing was selected in 2003 as the one RPC project, and its report was finalized in October of 2006.
- The money budgeted for RPC in 2007 is \$11,641.

Member Ming explained that Edina Vision 20/20 should be guiding the work of the Commission. She stressed the need to strengthen the Commission's relationship with the School District. Before Member Ming retires from the Commission in 2008, it is hoped

that her expertise in this arena will be cherished and claimed by at least one other Commissioner in order to carry on with the City Council's expectations of RPC.

League of Women Voters of Edina Study on Boards and Commissions

Member Longman thanked the Commissioners for their participation in the survey by the LWV to compile information and create a report of Edina's advisory boards and commissions. The issue of data privacy has been raised and whether names of commissioners can be posted on the City's website. The Commissioners were reminded that all meetings are considered "open meetings" available to anyone wanting to attend. Member Bartolomei remarked that it is important for Edinans to be able to communicate with the Commission via e-mail. The issue of adding Commissioners' names to the website will be pursued, and the question of posting an e-mail address on the website will also be investigated.

Freedom of Faith in the Workplace

Member Erickson cited a recent article in the Pioneer Press regarding freedom of faith in the workplace. The Commissioners responded with questions about current trends in this community. If there is interest and concern, perhaps this is an issue for the Chamber to explore.

Bias/Hate Crime

Chair Brindle shared that the Police Chief reported an incident which occurred on a bus in the Southdale parking lot. Because bad names were called out, two people missed their stop. Apparently, there were two victims, and four people got off the bus. The license plate number of the perpetrator was retrieved, but PD's attempts to trace it have uncovered a bad address. The victim made a positive identification of this individual from a vehicle registration picture. In the meantime, the Chief is contacting the victim to see if he would like contact from HRRC.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Brindle, Chair
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission

MB/sh