

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

Members Present

Luis Bartolomei  
Emery Erickson  
Idelle Longman  
Debby McNeil  
JoAnn McGuire  
Sharon Ming  
Andy Otness  
Wayne Prochniak

Members Absent

Mary Brindle  
Lindah Mhando  
Hamdi Yusuf

Staff

Susan Heiberg

Regarding the untimely death of new Member Michael Stolee, funeral information was shared. On behalf of the Commission, a card will be sent to his wife, Marilyn.

For the sake of new Member JoAnn McGuire, introductions were made all around. Member McGuire is the Development Director of the Minnesota Justice Foundation.

Approval of Minutes

Member Erickson seconded Member Longman's motion to approve the minutes of February 27, 2007; the motion carried.

Tom Oye Human Rights Award

The Commissioners discussed the candidate, Ellen Kennedy, submitted by the Rotary Club. Ellen has a passion about human rights and raising awareness. As a professor at St. Thomas, she empathized with her students about the current genocide situation in Darfur Sudan. As a result, she helped create a local chapter of GI.Net (Genocide Intervention Network), which is now the official chapter for the State of Minnesota. The Commission agreed that Ellen's work fits within the criteria of the Award, which is reflective of Tom Oye. However, this candidate does not work directly within the community. She strives to open up new chapters at other colleges, is legislatively active, and has brought people from Israel to meet with leaders in the Twin Cities. The Commissioners will seek additional ways to market this award again next fall. In the meantime, the process will be discussed at the next meeting in April.

Member Bartolomei seconded Member Prochniak's motion to present the 2007 Tom Oye Human Rights Award to Ellen Kennedy; the motion carried. The presentation will be made at the City's Volunteer Recognition Reception at Edinborough Park on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, Ellen will be invited to attend an upcoming Commission meeting.

Review of Funding Proposals

The Commissioners reviewed the proposal for human services funding for 2008. The first page will be updated to reflect pertinent, timely information. It will be sent out at the beginning of May to the providers currently funded, posted on the City's website and printed in the Sun-Current. The date for submission of proposals will be June 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Community Development Block Grant Funding

A grid of CDBG funding by the City for the past 16 years was shared with the Commission. JVS, a division of Jewish Family & Children's Service of Minneapolis, will be contacted at the end of the summer or early fall regarding their utilization of funds for child-care programs. The Commissioners agreed to connect earlier next time with all the providers who receive the City's CDBG funding.

### Commission Brochure

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair McNeil distributed a list of information to be considered for inclusion in a new Commission brochure. It was agreed that the Bias/Hate Crime Brochure should be mentioned but that all its information should not be duplicated in the new Commission brochure. A tri-fold brochure was considered a good choice. The Commissioners will have a chance to react to a draft at the next meeting.

### League of Women Voters Study

As a result of the study conducted by the League of Women Voters of Edina, names of advisory members on the City's boards and commissions will be available on the City website, as well as a general e-mail address for questions. The Commissioners suggested that it might also be helpful to include wording from the new brochure on the Commission's site.

### Information Sharing and Next Meeting

- The Commission needs a report on the progress of the Comprehensive Plan update regarding the housing component.
- At the City Council workshop regarding boards and commissions, it was validated that a student member may vote on HRRC.
- Member Longman reported that the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions will hold its 2007 conference on September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Mille Lacs Grand Casino.
- Gregg Aamot recently spoke to Rotary about his book The New Minnesotans. It was suggested that he be invited to the next Commission meeting.
- Due to the next Commission meeting falling on the same night at the Volunteer Recognition Reception, the meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby McNeil, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission

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