

**EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2008**  
**6:30 PM - MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Members Present**

Luis Bartolomei  
Mary Brindle  
Emery Erickson  
Colleen Feige  
Idelle Longman  
Wayne Prochniak  
Russell Stanton

**Members Absent**

JoAnn McGuire  
Andy Otness

**Students**

Shara Mohtadi  
Emma Weisberg

**Facilitator**

Jennifer Buzzelle

**Staff**

Susan Heiberg

**Strategic Plan Approved**

Chair Bartolomei, Group Leader of the Partnerships/Alliances with Other Community Organizations Project, presented the report from his group which demonstrated three objectives with respective goals for achievement. A copy of the report will be attached to this month's minutes.

Member Erickson, Group Leader of the Community Demographic Changes Project, also presented his group's report—highlighting four objectives supported by goals. A copy of the report will be attached to this month's minutes as well.

Discussion included the following:

- The overlap of the two project reports—the same things with a different focus
- Publicity
- Research
- Share demographics
- Share successes to blend people
- Focus on unity rather than diversity
- Timeline of significant events
- Compare to last census
- Gather HRRC alumni to share differences
- Article in Sun Current and About Town: "Who We Were and Who We Are" which could be a transition to the census
- Speakers for 2009 meetings: Planning, Resource Center, School District, Police Department

The Commissioners agreed that the two projects could be rolled into one. The following Members scheduled a meeting for December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM when one project would be identified and thereafter presented to the full Commission: Bartolomei, Feige, Longman, Stanton and the two students—Shara and Emma. The goal would be to incorporate this project into the Strategic Plan.

It was pointed out that the Strategic Plan of June, 2008, was still considered a draft. With all eyes on this draft, Member Brindle seconded Member Prochniak's motion to formally approve the draft document of June 16, 2008, entitled "HRRC Strategic Plan"; the motion carried. The Commissioners agreed to ready the Plan in February—with its newly-incorporated project—for a presentation to the City Council in March of 2009.

#### Darfur Community Awareness Event Highlighted

Aided by the Genocide Intervention Network, Amnesty International and a number of local organizations, Shara and Emma shared that they will be hosting a community awareness event about Darfur. This will be key in increasing exposure of an international crisis for human rights. Dr. Ashis Brahma will speak to an audience of at least 450 people on February 11 at 7:00 PM in the Fick Auditorium of the High School. He is a doctor in one of the refugee camps located near the border between Eastern Chad and Sudan, and he will speak about genocide and struggles that people are facing each day. There will also be a dinner that night at 5:30 PM in the High School's Community Room for Dr. Brahma with members of the Commission, the City Council, the Governor, State Senators and State Representatives.

Member Longman seconded the motion of Member Brindle that HRRC support the Darfur Community Awareness Event on February 11, 2009; the motion carried. Shara and Emma will contact Jennifer Bennerotte about publicity, and Member Brindle will connect with The Edina Community Foundation regarding sponsorship for the dinner.

#### Nominating Committee Selected

The Commissioners agreed upon the following Members to serve as a Nominating Committee, in order to bring a slate of 2009 officers to the January Commission Meeting: McGuire, Otness and Prochniak.

Member Feige seconded the motion of Member Stanton that Member Longman will become an Ex-Officio Member due to her term limit; the motion carried. Gordon Hughes will be contacted to determine the correct terminology for this title.

**Grant Opportunity Motion Defeated**

Member Longman introduced another opportunity for a State grant in the amount of \$1500 for capacity building in the Commission. The deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup>, and Member McGuire's initial grant request could be used to move forward with this. Member Prochniak seconded Member Brindle's motion to seek this funding through a Commission grant request; the motion was defeated four to three.

**Wishes for Speedy Recovery Extended to Val Burke**

Member Brindle reported that the director of the Edina Resource Center, Val Burke, just had successful surgery and will be at home recuperating. The Commission agreed to send flowers and best wishes to her.

**Announcement of Meetings and Adjournment**

The Commission agreed that it would be beneficial to conduct two meetings in January and selected Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, along with the regular meeting date of Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Both meetings would begin at 7:00 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Luis Bartolomei, Chair  
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission