

**EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008  
7:00 PM - MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Members Present**

Luis Bartolomei  
Mary Brindle  
Emery Erickson  
Idelle Longman  
JoAnn McGuire  
Andy Otness

**Members Absent**

Peter Brauer  
Colleen Feige  
Wayne Prochniak  
Russell Stanton

**Guest**

Kristi Bloom

**Students**

Shara Mohtadi  
Emma Weisberg

**Staff**

Susan Heiberg

The newly-appointed student by the City Council, Shara Mohtadi, was introduced and welcomed. Because the Commission can appoint a student as well, Emma Weisberg was introduced and welcomed as a second student member of the Commission. Her mother, Kristi Bloom, was also introduced.

Member McGuire seconded Member Otness's motion that Emma Weisberg be appointed as an ex-officio member of the Commission; the motion carried.

**Minutes Approved**

Member Longman seconded Member Erickson's motion to approve the Commission meeting minutes of June 24, 2008; the motion carried.

Member Erickson seconded Member Brindle's motion to approve the Commission meeting minutes of July 22, 2008; the motion carried.

Member Longman seconded Member Brindle's motion to approve the Commission meeting minutes of July 29, 2008; the motion carried.

**Upcoming City Council Hearing Discussed**

It was announced that the City Council would hear the Commission's 2009 proposed human services budget on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, at 5 PM in the Council Chambers. Member Brindle would be available to make the presentation, and the rest of the Commissioners were encouraged to attend to offer support and be available for questions.

### Options for RPC Projects Deferred

The Commission unanimously agreed that until the next census was made available, it was premature to designate research, planning and coordination dollars for a project yet to be determined. During 2009, the Commissioners will commit to time for discussion regarding RPC funding for 2010.

### State Grant for Leadership Training Identified

Member Longman explained that the State Department of Human Rights had entered in to the second phase of awarding grants to local commissions for organizational development and strategic planning. It would involve a grant of \$1500 toward a consultant facilitating the process around the following possible objectives:

- Leadership training
- Continuity/strengthening of youth membership
- Strategic planning
- Organizational skills
- Capacity building
- Marketing

It was suggested that this be dedicated to two sessions—first to evaluate the current strategic plan with the entire Commission and the students and then to come back for discussion around implementation. Member Longman welcomed suggestions for the choice of a consultant, and she will determine who it will be. The Commission chose Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 9:30 PM as the first session of strategic planning.

Member Otness seconded Member Brindle's motion to invite Val Burke to participate in the Strategic Planning to represent the Edina Resource Center; the motion carried.

### Concept of Immigration Forums Introduced

Member Brindle reported that the Plymouth League of Women Voters moderated a very interesting immigration forum. It was noted that something like this could be integrated into the strategic planning process.

### School Diversity Council Discussed

Chair Bartolomei reported that he had attended the School District's first Diversity Council meeting of the school year. There was much focus on the word itself—"diversity." This connection is worthy of support and should be included in the strategic planning discussion. As this is a good opportunity for the Commission, Chair Bartolomei agreed to serve as the representative to the School Diversity Council. It was suggested that one of the Council's members be invited to participate in the strategic planning session.

### News of the Azeri Delegation Shared

Member Otness reported that a six-person Azeri delegation with an interpreter would be visiting Edina. The focus of the trip is "youth and democracy," and Member Otness will be hosting two of the students during their stay from November 1<sup>st</sup> to November 8<sup>th</sup>. She invited the Commissioners to attend a dinner at her home on November 7<sup>th</sup> for the delegation.

### Research, Planning and Coordination (RPC) News Related

After the development of a module by Deborah Paone and Val Burke for other organizations to replicate their own enhanced care team models, an invitational meeting was held to provide information to the community and to identify organizations who would participate. Member Erickson reported that as a result of this meeting, six organizations have indicated that they would be interested in participating. For the time being, each will be provided support in the amount of \$500 and technical assistance as well. After the process is completed, a final report will be developed. The model will produce teams of volunteers supporting older persons to help them remain independent.

### Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Luis Bartolomei, Chair  
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission