

EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2009

6:30 PM - MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present

**Arnie Bigbee
John Cashmore
Lisa Finsness
Jessi Kingston
Bob Mayer
Meg Newell
Ralph Overholt
Russ Stanton**

Members Absent

**Shara Mohtadi, Student
Emma Weisberg, Student**

Staff Liaison

Susan Howl

Minutes Approved

After acknowledgment of the agenda, Member Bigbee seconded the motion of Member Mayer to approve the minutes of May 26, 2009; the motion carried.

Domestic Partner Resolution Discussed

Member Cashmore presented information from OutFront Minnesota regarding domestic partner benefits. OutFront Minnesota's mission is to make the state a place where GLBT Minnesotans have the freedom, power, and confidence to discern the best choices for their own lives. He reported that the cities of Duluth, Minneapolis and St. Paul have established registries whereby domestic partners are recognized as full, equal and valued participants in their respective communities. Member Cashmore indicated that if the City of Edina were to establish a registry as such and encourage other municipalities to move forward, it might contribute to Minnesota's decision to become the 18th state to offer a domestic partner benefit program for its employees.

Member Finsness seconded the motion of Member Cashmore to invite OutFront Minnesota to the September Commission meeting to share legal information regarding Edina becoming the fourth Minnesota city to recognize domestic partners' relationships through a registry. The motion carried.

The legal counsel for OutFront Minnesota will be invited to the September 22nd Commission meeting. A sub-committee consisting of Members Cashmore and Kingston will cover the preparations for this opportunity to learn about the establishment of a domestic partner registry in the City of Edina.

Proposals for 2010 Funding Discussed

Being assigned to a specific provider(s), each Commissioner presented his/her respective proposal. He/she plans to field back questions from the other Commissioners to the assigned provider, asking that answers be returned to City Hall ASAP. This procedure would reduce if not eliminate questions during the hearing with the providers.

The Commissioners handled the following presentations and plan to field questions to the providers:

- Member Stanton, VEAP and STAND
- Member Mayer, Edina ABC
- Member Finsness, Tubman and Edina School Readiness
- Member Bigbee, Cornerstone and Normandale Center
- Member Cashmore, Senior Community Services and Store to Door
- Member Kingston, Women in Transition and Edina Resource Center
- Member Overholt, The Bridge and Free Arts Minnesota
- Member Newell, Conflict Resolution Center

In the event that providers might have limited availability before the hearing on July 21st, the Commissioners agreed that every effort would be made to contact them with the questions as soon as possible. In preparation for their work at the meeting two days after the hearing, it was shared that there would be no increase applied to the City's 2010 human services budget due to the economy and projected loss of revenue. The Commissioners should go into the budget development session using the 2009 amount as a guideline/highest amount or even look at the possibility of a budget cut by the City. Worksheets will be provided for the Commissioners' use during the sharing and deliberating at the meeting on July 23rd.

Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Stanton, Chair
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission

RS/sh