

EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010
7:00 PM – MINNEHAHA ROOM

Members Present

Zack Antar
Arnie Bigbee
Daria Brosius
John Cashmore
Lisa Finsness
Jessi Kingston
Bob Mayer
Meg Newell
Russ Stanton

Members Absent

Staff

Susan Howl

Guests

Julie Jursik

Commission Minutes Approved

It was noted that the names of the Student Members had been recorded “Absent” and should have been recorded “Present.” **Member Mayer seconded the motion of Member Cashmore to approve the Commission minutes as amended for November 30, 2010. The motion carried.**

Visiting Student Introduced and Welcomed

Julie Jursik from the Edina High School Chapter of Amnesty International was introduced and welcomed. Discussion ensued regarding plans for the community-wide event premiere of Dead Man Walking and the death penalty. The author of this work, Sister Helen Prejean, is an anti-death penalty activist and death row counselor, and unfortunately she would not be available to attend an event if it was scheduled for this spring. Consideration was given to changing the time to the fall of 2011 or spring of 2012. HRRRC could provide assistance for publicity. Travel and lodging would probably have to be covered as well if Sister Prejean is able to accept the invitation.

The Commission discussed the need to create a form to use for sponsoring/supporting educational events in the community. This form would serve as a guideline for expectations and requirements for all parties entering into the staging of a community-wide event.

Anti-Bullying/Cyber Bullying Subcommittee Update Presented

Member Finsness reported that the Executive Director of the Edina Community Foundation—Dick Crockett—would like to partner with HRRRC regarding a community-wide event regarding the issue of bullying. He indicated that spring would be a good time and that the High School should definitely be involved. Chair Bigbee reported that he had talked with Arrie Larsen Manti of the Edina Chamber of Commerce, and she also shared an interest in collaborating. Possible celebrities to invite included Shawn Simonson, a senior at Benilde; an actor from the video “Bullied”; or an actor from Harry Potter who is against bullying. The members of the Commission’s Subcommittee—Finsness, Newell, Cashmore, Kingston and Antar—will continue to work on details and report back to the Commission.

MN Local Human Rights Project Grant Discussed

The MN Department of Human Rights and the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions are inviting local commissions to apply for a capacity building or civic engagement mini grant which could be up to \$1500. The deadline is December 31, 2010. If HRRRC would partner with other commissions, this could triple the amount. This needs to be researched and brought back to the Bullying Subcommittee.

Administrative Process for 2011 Schedule Reviewed

Member Mayor reported that he would be talking to each Commissioner regarding nomination of officers for 2011 and how the Commission is running administratively. A slate of officers for election needs to be developed for passing the torch at the February, 2011 meeting.

Regarding the Tom Oye Human Rights Award to be presented at Volunteer Recognition in April, Member Mayer indicated that he met with Jennifer Bennerotte to discuss ways to advertise/promote the submission of applications. The first step would be to plan for the interviewing of former recipients on the City's Cable show "Agenda: Edina" in January. This show would be broadcasted between mid February and mid March, allowing time for people to view and consider candidates to nominate for the next Tom Oye Award.

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of changing the date and time for regular meetings during 2011. After suggestions and voting, the agreement was to continue to hold regular monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday and to continue to honor the designated time from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

2011 Work Plan Discussed

- Chair Bigbee indicated that the Commission should hold a work session with the City Council to discuss the funding of human services.
Member Kingston seconded Member Mayer's motion to hold a special meeting before the next regular meeting scheduled on January 25th to develop an agenda if the City Council should call for a joint work session on January 4th or January 18th; the motion carried.
Member Stanton seconded Member Mayer's motion that the Commission's preference is to meet with the City Council in February; the motion carried.
- The Work Plan itself was amended as follows:
 - Commission Administration was added under the area entitled "Administration."
 - The area entitled "Other" was changed to "Commission Initiatives."
 - The topic of "Anti-Bullying" was added to Commission Initiatives.
 - Under the March items in the 2011 calendar, the annual meeting was defined as the Annual Meeting of the boards and commission with the City Council.
 - The "no meeting" entry under the August heading in the 2011 calendar was deleted.
 - CDBG recommendation were transferred from November to December.
- Questions and issues raised:
 - Where do human rights complaints go? Check in with Val Burke to find out what category of complaints she might receive at the Resource Center.
 - Open up the March meeting to a broader discussion regarding the Bias/Hate Crime Response Plan. Should there be a process in place to deal with issues of discrimination?
 - Member Finsness remarked that HRRC should become intentional in inviting representatives of various groups to speak at Commission meetings.
 - Member Stanton shared that it is important for the Commission to have the Police Chief attend a meeting. Additionally, Member Stanton would like to see HRRC reach out to immigrant groups.
 - Member Newell reported that there will be a Hindu temple somewhere in Edina. She also shared that professors could speak to the Commission about victims of domestic violence becoming a protected class.
 - Chair Bigbee reported that he would be presenting an HRRC PowerPoint at the January meeting of the Edina Community Council. This would kick off the Commission's activity of speaking before groups to educate the community regarding the charge of the Commission and the scope of its endeavors.

Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.