

**EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010
7:00 PM – MAYOR’S CONFERENCE ROOM**

Members Present

Arnie Bigbee
Lisa Finsness
Jessi Kingston
Bob Mayer
Shara Mohtadi
Meg Newell
Russ Stanton
Emma Weisberg

Member Absent

John Cashmore

Guests

Idelle Longman
Larry Clark

Staff

Susan Howl

Draft Agenda Approved

Member Kingston seconded the motion of Member Mayer to approve the draft agenda for the February 23, 2010, Commission meeting. The motion carried.

Officers Elected

Member Newell seconded the motion of Member Mayer to elect Member Bigbee Chair of the Commission for 2010. The motion carried.

Member Newell seconded the motion of Member Mayer to elect Member Kingston Vice Chair of the Commission for 2010. The motion carried.

Minutes Approved

Member Kingston seconded the motion of Member Stanton to approve the minutes of January 26, 2010. The motion carried.

LMHRC Presentation Made

Larry Clark, the past chair and honorary member of the LMHRC, was introduced by Idelle Longman, former HRRRC Commissioner. He reflected on the interaction he had had with Edina HRRRC at the Annual Conference in December. Regarding the election process for board members, Mr. Clark agreed that information about the candidates should have been provided beforehand. Next fall, the HRRRC will receive early information about the process, timeline, and how it can participate, along with the details of being a board member. The Commissioners agreed that all the candidates should be present at the Conference. Mr. Clark explained that the LMHRC is the only non-governmental human rights organization in the State. One of its roles is to help other commissions get established and to help create bias/hate crime response plans. LMHRC relies totally on volunteers; there are no paid positions. There are upcoming opportunities for Edina to host a 2010 board meeting—July, August or October. The 2010 Annual Conference will be held on the first Friday in December (December 3, 2010).

Domestic Partnership Draft Ordinance Discussed

Member Kingston reported that the City's Personnel Director, Ceil Smith, had explained that the City's personnel policy is the City's governing document and therefore covers the specific language for the ordinance. Her comments will be sent out to the Commissioners with an updated version of the draft Ordinance.

Commission/City Council Work Session Discussed

The Members were reminded of the Commission's Work Session with the City Council on Tuesday, March 2nd, at 5:00 PM. The topic for discussion will be the draft ordinance which will be included the packets which go out to the Council Members before their regular Council Meeting. A note from Chair Bigbee will be included, along with the Work Plan and the latest minutes.

Commissioners Reminded of the Tom Oye Award

The deadline for the submission of nominations for the Tom Oye Human Rights Award is March 12th. Nominations will be reviewed at the March Commission meeting. The Commissioners were encouraged to get out in the community to seek candidates. The award will be presented at the City's Volunteer Recognition Reception on April 29th at Edinborough Park at 5:00 PM.

Human Rights Fair Announced

Members Mohtadi and Weisberg reported that STAND in partnership with Christ Presbyterian Church will be sponsoring a presentation called "STAND Up for Congo" at the High School on March 25th at 7 PM for the purpose of raising awareness of the violence in the Congo. The Commissioners agreed that an HRRC banner should be created in order to be displayed at an information table during the event. Chair Bigbee agreed to contact the Communications Director at the City regarding the process to create one. Members Mohtadi and Weisberg also reported that there will be a band concert with local artists for Burma in May.

Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Arnie Bigbee, Chair
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission