

**EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2010  
7:00 PM – MAYOR’S CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Members Present**

**Arnie Bigbee  
John Cashmore  
Lisa Finsness  
Jessi Kingston  
Bob Mayer  
Shara Mohtadi, Student  
Dee Moore  
Meg Newell  
Russ Stanton**

**Members Absent**

**Emma Weisberg,  
student**

**Guest**

**Mary Jo Kingston**

**Staff**

**Susan Howl**

**Agenda Approved**

**Member Finsness seconded the motion of Member Kingston to approve the agenda as submitted; the motion carried.**

**Minutes Approved**

**Member Kingston seconded the motion of Member Newell to approve editing of the minutes of March 23, 2010, on page two as follows: “Member Newell indicated that she would like to see the Commission co-sponsor a film festival for student films/videos addressing human rights’ issues with the School District.”**

**Member Cashmore seconded the motion of Member Stanton to approve the minutes of March 23, 2010; the motion carried.**

**Guest Introduced and Welcomed**

**Mary Jo Kingston, Chair of the Edina Community Health Committee, was introduced by her daughter, Vice Chair Kingston, and welcomed by the Commission. As a representative of her Committee, she came to hear about the human services funding process conducted by HRRC.**

**Ordinance Readied for Selected Hearing Date**

**Vice Chair Kingston presented dates of three upcoming City Council meetings as choices for the public hearing regarding HRRC’s draft Domestic Partnership Ordinance. The Commissioners agreed upon Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, and asked that staff provide information regarding the procedure for the hearing.**

**Regarding the public hearing and the ordinance to be reviewed, discussion took place whether or not to include Section 4 which was in the original draft, stating that entities contracting with the City be required to provide equal benefits to spouses and domestic partners of their employees. It was suggested that this section be changed to selection criteria rather than a mandate. Another suggestion was the importance of keeping this section within the ordinance for**

the overall purpose of human rights and that much of the material contained in the draft Ordinance is symbolic in nature anyway. It was reported that Gordon Hughes and the City's attorney, Roger Knutson, both advised that this section not be included in the draft ordinance at this time and that it be brought to a City Council/HRRC work session at a later date.

Member Cashmore seconded Vice Chair Kingston's motion to eliminate Section 4 from the draft ordinance scheduled for review at the City Council's public hearing on May 18, 2010, and to schedule a work session with the City Council to discuss Section 4 in the late summer or early fall. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **STAND Event Reviewed**

The Commissioners were reminded that the amount of \$1500 had been approved at the previous Commission meeting for the special event on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to support anti-genocide efforts in Burma. However, this action was subject to the School District Administration's approval as well. Student Member Mohtadi shared the written communication from the Superintendent, Ric Dressen, which indicated support for and approval of the event. It will be a three-hour concert with seven local bands at the Lake Harriet band shell. Because of liability concerns, the bike ride to the band shell was cancelled.

#### **New RFP Form Approved**

In order to investigate mutual endeavors and responsibilities between HRRC and the Community Health Committee, it was recommended that communication begin between the two entities. Member Newell seconded the motion of Member Finsness to discuss creating a sub-committee from members of both advisory groups at the next Commission meeting; the motion carried.

Discussion ensued regarding the new RFP format needing to be "cut and dried" with master categories in order to make it a step up from what was used before. The draft accomplishes this in a newly-organized format. The following were suggestions for inclusion in the RFP:

- Charity Review Council score
- "Other" in number 12
- Number of volunteers and hours of service
- Income statement and balance sheet for the prior year
- Proposed budget including expense categories
- Current budget

#### **Workshop Confirmed at the Annual Meeting**

In December at the State's Annual Meeting of Human Rights Commissions, Vice Chair Kingston indicated that she planned to host a workshop regarding the Domestic Partnership Ordinance.

**Edina Community Council Report Given**

**Member Finsness shared information given by Mary Manderfeld at the recent Community Council meeting. Mary is the Assistant Director of Administrative Services for Edina Public Schools, and she talked about the Equity Teams being created at each of the Edina schools. She gave an overview of the state of our School District regarding Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) which showed the changing face of Edina. In the reading tests, our students who are a part of the Free-Reduced Lunch Program did not show adequate progress. Mary reported that unfortunately bullying is still an issue in the schools. Along with the Equity Teams, STRIVE and Dare to be Real, it is hoped that challenges can be turned into positive learning experiences.**

**Dee Moore seconded the motion of Lisa Finsness to invite Mary Manderfeld and Rachael Pream Grenier, the School District's Youth Development Supervisor, to attend a meeting of the Commission. The motion carried.**

**Meeting Adjourned**

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Arnie Bigbee, Chair  
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission**