

EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2010
7:00 PM – MAYOR’S CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present

Arnie Bigbee
John Cashmore
Jessi Kingston
Bob Mayer
Dee Moore
Russ Stanton

Members Absent

Lisa Finsness
Meg Newell

Staff

Susan Howl

Approval of Minutes Postponed

Due to the inability to confirm the statement about needing a Commission replacement on the Edina Community Council in the minutes of July 27th, the approval of these minutes was postponed until the next Commission meeting.

Administrative Team’s Work Plan Items Approved

Member Mayer presented two items of the Work Plan which were rewritten with fuller description, clarity, and specific timeframes:

- Nominations of Officers
- Tom Oye Award

Hereafter, the Administrative Team Chair will review the plan of the Administrative Team at the August meeting of the Commission in order to confirm any additional items to be added for review and dates for the Work Plan for the following year.

Member Kingston seconded Member Mayer’s Motion to approve the 2010 Administrative Team’s items for the Work Plan; the motion carried.

Editing of the Bias/Hate Crime Response Plan Approved

Having been reviewed by the Police Chief, Chair Bigbee shared that the Plan had also been studied and edited by the City’s Attorney, and it was now ready to be approved by the Commission. It will include an updated communications page with names and phone numbers of pertinent individuals who would be part of the process if it were to be implemented. The Visibility Team would now be able to include this in the power point slides when sharing the work of the Commission.

Member Cashmore seconded Member Kingston’s motion to approve the newly-edited 2010 Bias/Hate Crime Response Plan; the motion carried.

Demographics Team Looking Ahead to the Census

Member Stanton reported that there would be much useful data from the census to take into consideration when reviewing unmet needs in the community.

Visibility Team Launching Plan

Member Kingston shared that the Team will be meeting to discuss the Tom Oye article for the Sun, partnerships with the schools, including students on the Team, and getting Commission slides into a presentation format. Jennifer Bennerotte, the City’s Communications Director, will be queried regarding the method/format for PowerPoint sharing within the community.

Human Services Funding Process Discussed

The Commissioners shared the following concerns and questions regarding the HRRC process for evaluating proposals and recommending funding for human services:

- Clarification of the selection process, in which the proposed budget is created for approval by the City Council
- Is there a better way to discern the needs of people in Edina?
- Is this process of proposing a human services budget appropriate for the Commission on behalf of the City?
- The Commission was reminded that the process establishes contracts with vendors, which means that the City is buying external services.
- How is the United Way connected regarding the providers funding by the City?
- Look at best practices in other suburban communities regarding the funding of human services.

The Commission assigned staff to the task of gathering the following information from Bloomington, Richfield, Eden Prairie, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and Plymouth:

- Are human services being funded in your city?
- If so, how much money is spent to fund human services?
- Is there a commission in place to review proposals and propose a human services budget?
- If so, does this commission's mission have a reference to meeting basic human needs?

Commissioners Stanton and Kingston agreed to take a look at this information when it is returned by the specific cities.

Chair Bigbee reminded the Commission that the City Council would be hearing the HRRC 2011 proposal for human services funding on September 7th at its regular Council Meeting. It will be a five-minute presentation to the City Council, with an opportunity for questions.

Commissioner's Relocation Announced

Member Moore shared that she will be moving to Bloomington and therefore unable to continue serving on the Commission. Commissioners wished her well and thanked her for her commitment to the City of Edina.

Domestic Partnership Benefits Revisited

With item #4 deleted in the Domestic Partnership Ordinance, Members Kingston and Cashmore will meet with Phil Duran about the next steps to take concerning benefits.

Commissioners Reminded of Upcoming Events

- Sunday, September 19th – Edina Community Lutheran Church picnic - HRRC recognition for the Domestic Partnership Ordinance
- Wednesday, September 22nd – Richfield Public Information Forum at the Woodlake Nature Center
- Saturday, October 16th – "Peace power and Unity: Conference – Richfield Intermediate School
- Friday, December 3rd – State conference in St. Paul

Items Suggested for Future Meetings/Discussion

- Bring in a speaker to discuss counteracting internet abuse.
- Address ways to connect with the School District regarding the issue of bullying.
- The Visibility Team's presentation could reference bullying and internet issues.
- What will be the initiatives of the Commission going forward?

Adjournment

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