

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
OCTOBER 25, 2011
7:03 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

First Vice Chair Finsness called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Answering rollcall were Commissioners Cashmore, Finsness, Mayer, Newell, Seidman, Stanton, and Winnick, and Student Members Aderhold and Nolan. Staff present: Lisa Schaefer, Human Resources Director; Karen Kurt, Assistant City Manager; and Susan Howl, staff liaison.

III. MEETING AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by Commissioner Winnick and seconded by Commissioner Cashmore approving the meeting agenda of October 25, 2011, and continuing Item VI.E. Process/Questionnaire for Funding Requests to the December meeting and replacing Item VI.E. with Bias/Hate Crime Meeting Update.

Ayes: Cashmore, Finsness, Mayer, Newell, Seidman, Stanton and Winnick

Motion carried.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTED

Motion by Commissioner Mayer and seconded by Commissioner Seidman approving the consent agenda as follows:

V.A. Approve regular meeting minutes of September 27, 2011.

Ayes: Cashmore, Finsness, Mayer, Newell, Seidman, Stanton and Winnick

Motion carried.

V. COMMUNITY COMMENT

There were no community comments.

VI. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

VI.A. EDINA COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING DISCUSSED

Commissioner Winnick reported that a VEAP representative shared the following information at the recent Community Council meeting:

- There has been a 29% increase in VEAP's services, which include the food and transportation programs. More seniors have called for help, and there was a large increase of families accessing the food shelf.
- Bloomington Public Health shared that the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) will be presenting a grant proposal focusing on chronic disease causes, prevention, obesity and tobacco use/exposure.

VI.B. TOM OYE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD PROCESS REVIEWED

Commissioner Mayer shared the history of the Commission's award which is presented annually at the City's Volunteer Recognition Reception in April. As he will continue to oversee the process, he invited other Commissioners to assist him to ensure that the following is completed:

- Produce article for the About Town.
- Produce announcement in the Sun-Current.
- Work with the Communications Department throughout the process to prepare for a segment on Cable Channel 16, highlighting award recipients.
- Re-submit nominations not selected into the current process.
- Be ever mindful of ways to increase the visibility of the Commission and its mission.

VI.C. NEW DRAFT TO THE BY-LAWS AND THE OPEN MEETING LAW DISCUSSED

Human Resources Director Schaefer commented on the draft to the Commission By-Laws submitted by Commissioner Winnick regarding confidential communication in response to the release of private data by the Police to the Commission. She reported that it is rare for a commission to have a closed meeting. The City Attorney does not recommend a policy change to the by-laws and encourages the Commission to follow the data practices of the City.

VI.D. BUDGET, EVENT PLANNING AND POST EVALUATION PROCESS REPORTS REVIEWED

Commissioner Seidman presented the following reporting tools for the Commission's evaluation:

- Budget Planning Worksheet
- Event Planning Guide
- Post Event Evaluation

She requested that the Commissioners submit suggestions and indicated that the forms would be on the November meeting agenda for approval.

VI.E. INFORMATION FROM THE BIAS/HATE CRIME MEETING SHARED

Commissioner Winnick reported that the Police Department's Public Information Officer, Molly Anderson, met and welcomed representatives of the new Hindu temple in Edina. Officer Anderson has also been involved with other potential hate crime issues. The Police Department has indicated that it is making internal adjustments to ensure that private data is not released in the future. The Commission's 2012 Work Plan could address ways to incorporate protection of private data into City policy as well as updating the Bias/Hate Crime Response Plan.

VI.F. COMMISSION'S 2012 PRELIMINARY WORK PLAN INITIATIVES APPROVED

With the 2012 preliminary work plan having been submitted last August by Commission Mayer, the initiatives for HRRC were reviewed and assigned accordingly to Commissioners as lead people:

- Monitor Domestic Partnership Ordinance (regarding Section 4) – Commissioners Cashmore and Winnick
- Initiate census research funding recommendation – Commissioner Stanton
- Update Bias/Hate Crime Response Plan – Commissioner Winnick
- Participate in the April event regarding the Nazi persecution of homosexuals – Commissioners Cashmore and Kingston
- Sponsor Anti-Bullying event and community education – Commissioner Finsness and Student Members Aderhold and Nolan
- Sponsor Marriage Amendment Forum – Commissioners Cashmore and Stanton, and Student Member Aderhold
- Sponsor diversity awareness event – Commissioner Mayer
- Sponsor Days of Remembrance – Commissioner Seidman
- Coordinate Somali relief efforts – Commissioner Newell

Motion by Commissioner Stanton and seconded by Commissioner Mayer to approve these initiatives for the 2012 Preliminary Work Plan.

Ayes: Cashmore, Finsness, Mayer, Newell, Seidman, Stanton and Winnick
Motion carried.

VI.G. NOVEMBER COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA DEVELOPED

Because the November 22nd Commission Meeting will be held in the Council Chambers and taped for cable viewing, the Commissioners carefully reviewed the order of business and agreed on the following agenda items: census data update, Domestic Partnerships, Anti-Bullying initiative, Days of Remembrance, Bias/Hate Crime Response Plan, Tom Oye Human Rights Award, and the Commission's event planning process. Amber Cameron of the Edina Resource Center and Daryl Coppoletti of Hennepin South Services Collaborative will be guest speakers regarding census information. If PowerPoint presentations are planned, they should be sent to City staff by November 10th. It was suggested by staff that rollcall be simple and not involve sharing personal information.

VII. ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER, KAREN KURT, INTRODUCED AND WELCOMED

The City's new Assistant Manager Kurt was introduced and welcomed to the Commission meeting. She shared that one of her assignments has been to look at the boards and commissions in a global sense and to evaluate staff assistance. A process to change commission by-laws was explained:

- Create a common framework for commissions' by-laws.
- Invite a representative from each commission to evaluate the newly-created framework.
Commissioner Mayer agreed to serve as HRRC's representative.
- Plan the "walk-through" of the new framework at each commission meeting in December.
- Bring the new framework to the City Council for approval in the spring of 2012.

Assistant Manager Kurt reported that a survey will soon be sent to all board and commission members for sharing their experiences as appointed advisors to the Edina City Council. She shared that a training model is being developed for the orientation of new board and commission members and that student roles are also being addressed.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

No correspondence or petitions were received.

IX. CHAIR AND COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- Student Member Aderhold reported that he had helped created a No Hate Week at the High School on behalf of the Gay-Straight Alliance and DARE. Posters were placed throughout the school regarding discrimination and bullying, and a petition will be created and sent to the State Legislature and Governor.
- Student Member Nolan reported that she is involved in a visual arts project regarding anti-bullying at the High School. The goal is to have art work and exhibits placed not only in the schools but throughout the community for everyone to view.

X. STAFF COMMENTS

There were no comments.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business on the Commission Agenda, First Vice Chair Finsness declared the meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Howl, HRRC Staff Liaison

Minutes approved by HRRC, November 22, 2011.

Lisa Finsness, HRRC First Vice Chair