

EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2011
7:00 PM – MAYOR’S CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present

Arnie Bigbee
Daria Brosius
John Cashmore
Lisa Finsness
Jessi Kingston
Bob Mayer
Jan Seidman
Russ Stanton
Steve Winnick

Members Absent

Zack Antar
Meg Newell

Staff

Susan Howl

Guests

Tom Brower
Tyler Brower

New Members Introduced and Welcomed

Janet Seidman and Steve Winnick, who was just recently appointed to the Commission, were introduced and welcomed.

Guests Introduced and Welcomed

Tyler Brower is an Edina High School junior. He and his father, Tom, were visiting to fulfill an Eagle Scout communications project for Tyler.

Commission Minutes Approved

Member Stanton seconded the motion of Member Kingston to approve the Commission minutes for January 25, 2011. The motion carried.

2011 Commission Officers Elected

The Chair of the Administration Team, Member Mayer, presented the slate of officers for 2011. For a balanced approach, he recommended that the Chair of the Commission be a rotating position each year.

2011 Slate of Officers

Chair	Jessi Kingston
Vice Chair	Lisa Finsness

Current Chair Bigbee seconded the motion of Member Stanton to nominate Member Mayer for 2nd Vice Chair; the motion carried.

Member Cashmore seconded the motion of Member Mayer to approve the 2011 slate of officers: Chair, Jessi Kingston; 1st Vice Chair, Lisa Finsness; and 2nd Vice Chair, Bob Mayer. The motion carried. Current Chair Bigbee “passed the torch” to newly-elected Chair Kingston.

2011 Administrative Processes Updated and Approved

The Chair of the Administration Team, Member Mayer, presented the update for the new year. Key Initiatives were pointed out, showing the need to determine focal topics for each meeting and to have specific recommendations and planned actions. The Chair and staff will prepare each agenda with key topics and review the work plan.

Regarding student roles on the Commission, HRRC will follow up with the City Council regarding an opportunity to change a student’s appointment to two years with voting rights in the second year. In the meantime, the Commission will make an effort to help the appointed students assume leadership roles while serving; i. e. the Chair and 1st Vice Chair will involve the students in planning items for the agenda.

Member Finsness seconded Member Cashmore's motion to approve the Administration Team's Update for 2011 to serve as guidelines for the coming year. The motion carried.

Community Council Report Given

Member Finsness shared that two different organizations were showcased at the last meeting of the Edina Community Council:

- Oasis for Youth – It is a community-based organization providing homeless and precariously-housed youth of the south metro area with referrals to crisis intervention services, overnight shelter and onsite support. Its operations are contained in a church in Bloomington. Oasis often refers youth to The Bridge. It was reported that there are 550 to 650 homeless youth under the age of 17 in the Twin Cities without shelter any given night.
- Homes Within Reach – It is a community-based program of the West Hennepin Affordable Housing Land Trust that provides affordable homeownership in western suburban Hennepin County by removing the market value of the land from the mortgage equation. This reduces the cost of a home by almost 40 percent.

The Edina Resource will join in as a supporting partner of the Anti-Bullying event on April 26th.

Anti-Bullying Subcommittee Report Given

Member Finsness shared the Ellen Kennedy had agreed to be on the panel at the community-wide event on Tuesday, April 26th. Amelia Santaniello will not be available to serve as the moderator. At the upcoming subcommittee meeting, the rest of the speakers will be determined.

Commission Updated on the Tom Oye Human Rights Award

Member Mayer shared the following regarding the Tom Oye Award to be presented at Volunteer Recognition on April 28th:

- The application is on the website, with a deadline of March 17th.
- The on-line procedure to apply will be tested to assure that it is working.
- The application was distributed widely in a mailing to community organizations and key contacts.
- On the City's website, one can download the "In Edina" broadcast to watch the interview with former recipients of the Award.
- The Commission will make its decision at the March meeting regarding an award recipient for this year.
- It would be helpful to receive the ongoing City/Communications calendar of deadlines.
- It was suggested that discussion regarding next year's award process be moved to October in the Commission's Work Plan.

Work Session with the City Council Revisited

Member Bigbee reported that the Commission work session with the City Council on February 15th went well, and the following took place:

- The Commission discussed changing its role in the human services funding process, and the City Council charged HRRC with presenting a plan to consider for approval.
- The issue of comparable worth surfaced at the Work Session. It was thereafter suggested that Ceil Smith, Human Resources Director, be invited to attend an upcoming Commission meeting.
- The Commission would like the Council to consider changing students' terms to two years with voting rights during the second year.
- There is an ongoing responsibility for an HRRC member to serve on the Edina Community Council. Currently, this position is held by Member Finsness.

Member Bigbee prepared the following funding procedure processes for the Commission to consider and vote:

- Option 1 – HRRC internal subcommittee of up to three members with liaison support
- Option 2 – One HRRC member overseeing group from other boards/commissions with liaison support
- Option 3 – New working group established by the City Council from particular boards/commission with liaison support
- Option 4 – Same as Option 3, plus up to three community members selected at large
- Option 5 – no change
- Option 6 – staff's responsibility to propose a human services budget
- Option 7 – Combination of Options 1 and 3, including people at large and utilizing a staff liaison

Member Finsness seconded Member Stanton's motion that Option 7 be approved and brought to the City Manager. The motion carried.

Annual Meeting Reminder Shared

The Commissioners were reminded that the City Council's Annual Dinner Meeting of boards and commissions would take place on Monday, March 21st, at 5 PM in the Hughes Pavilion at Centennial Lakes Park.

Adjournment

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