

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Zack Antar
Arnie Bigbee
Daria Brosius
Lisa Finsness
Jessi Kingston
Bob Mayer
Jan Seidman
Russ Stanton

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Cashmore
Meg Newell
Steve Winnick

STAFF

Susan Howl

GUEST

Ashle Briggs Horton

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kingston called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by Member Bigbee and seconded by Member Seidman approving the meeting agenda.

Ayes: Bigbee, Finsness, Kingston, Mayer, Seidman and Stanton

Motion carried.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVED

Motion by Member Mayer and seconded by Member Bigbee approving the meeting minutes of February 22, 2011.

Ayes: Bigbee, Finsness, Kingston, Mayer, Seidman and Stanton

Motion carried.

GUEST INTRODUCED

Ashle Briggs Horton from the Edina Patch was introduced and welcomed. She was gathering information on three events: Reflections on Bullying on April 26th, Tom Oye Human Rights Award on April 28th, and the proposed Day of Remembrance on May 1st.

NEWLY-CREATED FUNDING PROCEDURE EXPLAINED

Having met with the City Manager, Chair Kingston shared his recommendations for a newly-created funding procedure:

- The City Council will establish a new working group entitled the Human Services Task Force.
- This will begin with the following City Commissions appointing one of their members to serve on the Task Force: Community Health Committee, HRRC, Planning Commission, Energy & Environment Commission, Transportation Commission and Park Board.
- The City Manager will provide staff support to the Human Services Task Force.
- The Task Force will produce a recommendation for CDBG funding and human services funding.
- These two recommendations will be approved by the City Manager before final approval by the City Council.
- To accomplish this work, four meetings would be scheduled for the Task Force:
 - Evaluation of the RFP to be sent to providers currently funded and submitting an ad for the Sun-Current to solicit new requests
 - Hearing for the providers
 - Development of a draft human services budget
 - Presentation of the budget to the City Manager for evaluation

Member Stanton indicated his interest in participating on the Task Force.

“BIAS/HATE CRIME RESPONSE PLAN” REVIEWED

It was noted that the City’s legal counsel had reviewed and revised the Bias/Hate Crime Response Plan last March. After the Commission’s re-scrutiny of the Plan, Chair Kingston agreed to meet with the Police Chief for a refresher of the procedure and a view of the revisions.

“DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE” PROCLAMATION AND EVENT PLANS DEVELOPED

Due to a citizen bringing to the Mayor’s attention, the designation of the Days of Remembrance from May 1st through May 8th by the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, encouragement came to Member Cashmore from the Mayor for HRRC to plan an event around this time. A proclamation was prepared by the Commission for the City Council’s approval, which designates May 1st through May 8th as the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust. The proclamation also designates Sunday, May 1st, as the Day of Remembrance, at which time HRRC would host an open house and program at Edina City Hall.

Motion by Member Bigbee and seconded by Member Finsness to forward the proclamation to the City Council for approval of the designation of the Days of Remembrance from May 1st through May 8th and for an HRRC event on May 1st designating the Day of Remembrance.

Ayes: Bigbee, Finsness, Kingston, Mayer, Seidman and Stanton
Motion carried.

If the resolution is approved by the City Council, Chair Kingston and Member Seidman would assist Member Cashmore with the planning and preparation of the event on May 1st.

“TOM OYE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD” RECIPIENT SELECTED

After having reviewed the six nominations sent out to the Commissioners by Member Mayer, he asked for each Commissioner’s ranking in order to determine the 2011 recipient of the Tom Oye Human Rights Award. Each nominee was required to have a strong interest in human rights and live or work in Edina.

After Member Mayer made the determination upon compilation of the rankings, he announced that the 2011 recipient of the Tom Oye Award would be Rev. Dan Johnson. Dan has been a tireless advocate for human rights as he led his church toward becoming a “reconciling” church that openly welcomes and affirms the GLBT population. The presentation will be made at the Volunteer Awards Reception at Edinborough on April 28th. Candidates not selected in 2011 will automatically be considered again in 2012, along with new nominations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEETINGS DISCUSSED

The Commissioners agreed that there should be more time on the meeting agendas for additional items. This topic will be discussed in May.

DETAILS SHARED REGARDING “REFLECTIONS ON BULLYING”

Member Finsness reported the following:

- More groundwork was laid at the last meeting with Heather Haen Anderson and Members Finsness, Newell, and Brosius.
- The official confirmation form for Ellen Kennedy to be on the panel will be developed and sent to her as soon as possible.
- There will be four people on the panel.
- The emcee will be Liz Collins from WCCO, and WCCO will cover the event.
- Dick Crockett of the Edina Community Foundation will cover the cost of the food.
- There will be a PSA on the Edina website.
- The EdinaSecrets boxes will be in a number of locations for people to submit anonymous postcards. Member Seidman offered to help put the boxes together.
- John offered to help with publicity.
- HRRC Members are encouraged to invite their contacts to attend and to provide this information for Heather Haen Anderson.

- Member Antar will contact Jerry's about publicity in their turnaround, and he will also talk to the hockey coach regarding securing a Wild player as a celebrity.
- Reflections on Bullying will count as the April Commission Meeting.
- After the event, PSA's with the Police Chief could be created in order to educate the public. It would be helpful to advertise pertinent websites regarding bullying.

"BEYOND DIVERSITY" WORKSHOP INFORMATION SHARED

Member Finsness reported that she had recently attended the two-day "Beyond Diversity" workshop for School District personnel through WMEP. One of the themes was about raising the awareness of White privilege. 200 people were in attendance. The workshop was a step in the right direction in the continuum of learning. The Commission needs to be alert as to finding out what the next step will be.

CITY OF EDINA TO HOST APRIL MEETING OF THE STATE LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS

Member Bigbee reminded the Commissioners that they are invited to attend the State League of Human Rights Commissions' April meeting in the Community Room of Edina City Hall on Saturday, April 30th, from noon to 3 PM. RSVP's are necessary, as a meal will be served. Member Bigbee is now a Board Member of the State League.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business on the Commission agenda, Chair Kingston declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessi Kingston, Chair
Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission