

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 27, 2011
7:03 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kingston called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Answering roll call were Commissioners Bigbee, Cashmore, Finsness, Newell, Seidman, Stanton, Winnick and Chair Kingston, and Student Members Aderhold and Nolan. Guests present were City Manager Scott Neil, Human Resources Director Lisa Schaefer, and Sue Plaster. Staff present: Susan Howl, Human Services Coordinator.

III. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Commissioners welcomed the City Manager, Scott Neal, and the Human Resources Director, Lisa Schaefer, and introductions were made all around. Manager Neal expressed appreciation for the dedication and hard work of the Commission. He reported that Director Schaefer will be the new City Liaison to the Commission and that in the near future Ms. Howl would be replaced by new staff support. The new Student Members, Gabe Aderhold and Mackenzie Nolan, also introduced themselves and were welcomed to the Commission.

IV. MEETING AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by Commissioner Bigbee and seconded by Commissioner Cashmore approving the meeting agenda of September 27, 2011.

Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Finsness, Newell, Seidman, Stanton, Winnick and Chair Kingston
Motion carried.

V. CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTED

Motion by Commissioner Cashmore and seconded by Commissioner Winnick approving the consent agenda as follows:

V.A. Approve regular meeting minutes of August 23, 2011, correcting the last sentence in Item VIII: "Commissioners Winnick and Finsness will meet with the City's Park and Recreation Director, John Keprios, to discuss the incident."

Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Finsness, Newell, Seidman, Stanton, Winnick and Chair Kingston
Motion carried.

VI. COMMUNITY COMMENT

Sue Plaster, a member of the community, was welcomed as a visitor to her fourth Commission meeting. She shared that she has been impressed by the Commission's energy and desire to work together to resolve challenges. She encouraged the Commission to be a role model to the other commissions regarding how to address conflict and tensions. Director Schaefer remarked that it is important for the City to focus on training and relationship building for the City Council appointees as they begin their work on the boards and commissions.

VII. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

VII.A. BIAS/HATE CRIME RESPONSE PLAN UPDATED

Commissioner Winnick reported that he had recently met with Jeff Long, Police Chief, to begin the annual review of the Commission's Bias/Hate Crime Response Plan. The Chief will follow up with recommendations for the revision of the first and second sections of the plan's process. Items discussed were:

- An inadvertent disclosure of a Police report
- Follow-up information on the apprehension and conviction of the spray painting of local churches by an individual

- Community education and information sharing: new Hindu temple, Jewish cemetery's fence removal, and the Islamic community
- A proposed By-Laws amendment regarding non-disclosure of confidential information

Commissioner Winnick shared that the Police Department has been reaching out to build positive relationships in the community. The Commissioners questioned ways to help the Police Department with community education, special events, and to collaborate in planning a city-wide picnic.

Commissioner Winnick shared a draft new Section 9 to the Commission's By-Laws that pertains to confidential communications and exceptions. A third paragraph might be added which would deal with a closed Commission meeting. If approved, the current Section 9 of the By-Laws—By-Laws and Rules—would be renumbered as Section 10.

Motion by Commissioner Winnick and seconded by Commissioner Bigbee to adopt the new Section 9 to the By-Laws at the October meeting upon study and approval by the Human Resources Director.

Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Finsness, Newell, Seidman, Stanton, Winnick and Chair Kingston
Motion carried.

VII.B. ALLEGED BULLYING INCIDENT DISCUSSED

Commissioners Finsness and Winnick recently met with the Park Director, John Keprios, to discuss a bullying incident within the Hockey Association's program which had been reported at the "Reflections on Bullying" event last April. Mr. Keprios shared the City's bullying policy, which will be forwarded to the Commission, and indicated that he would contact the Hockey Association regarding the bullying incident. Director Schaefer will investigate whether there are any additional City contracts regarding bullying and report back to the Commission.

VII.C. "BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH" PROCLAMATION APPROVED

Commissioner Finsness reported that October is National Bullying Awareness Month. Because anti-bullying is the Commission's theme for the year, she shared a sample proclamation which could be prepared as a local proclamation for the City of Edina.

Motion by Commissioner Finsness and seconded by Commissioner Cashmore to prepare a proclamation for the Mayor to read and for Council to adopt at its first City Council meeting in October.

Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Finsness, Newell, Seidman, Stanton, Winnick and Chair Kingston
Motion carried.

City staff will send the proclamation to the School District. It was suggested that this item be added to the 2012 Work Plan for August. Student Member Nolan recommended sharing the proclamation with the 212 Leadership Group, the members of Dare to Be Real, and the Gay-Straight Alliance.

VII.D. EDINA COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING DISCUSSED AND NEW REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED

On behalf of the Human Rights and Relations Commission and to fill in for Commissioner Finsness, Commissioner Winnick attended the 2011-12 kick-off meeting of the Edina Community Council. He reported that Amber Cameron is the new Director of the Edina Resource Center. At the meeting, the members of the Council had discussed the upcoming School Referendum, the work plan, census data, and how to use smaller resources for the greater need.

Motion by Commissioner Finsness and seconded by Commissioner Bigbee to appoint Commissioner Winnick as the new Commission representative to the Edina Community Council.

Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Finsness, Newell, Seidman, Stanton, Winnick and Chair Kingston
Motion carried.

VII.E. CITY-WIDE PICNIC DISCUSSED

Commissioner Cashmore shared that both Council Member Sprague and Mayor Hovland had approached him about the Commission sponsoring a City-wide picnic. Their ideas and those brought forward by the Commission included: using ethnic food vendors at a large community picnic, a collaborative event with the Police Department and/or Park and Recreation, and tying it in with a popular and pre-existing City event.

Commissioner Cashmore will follow up with Council Member Sprague and Mayor Hovland for clarity and guidance.

VII.F. WORK OF THE HUMAN SERVICES TASK FORCE REPORTED

Having been appointed to serve on the newly-created Human Services Task Force, Commissioner Stanton shared the process and the work being done. Five advisory commissioners make up the Task Force: Ann Braden from the Transportation Commission, Colleen Curran from the Heritage Preservation Board, Carolyn Peterson from the Community Health Committee, Louise Segreto from the Park Board, and HRRC member Russ Stanton who was elected Chair of the group. Having studied the nine proposals for human services in 2012 amounting to \$128,477, the group met on two consecutive Wednesday evenings in September to review the proposals and conduct a hearing for the providers. The third meeting will be to draft a proposed 2012 human services budget in the amount of \$81,278, representing a two percent increase over the current year's funding. Thereafter, the Task Force will go before the City Council at a work session on October 4th to present and discuss the proposed human services budget for 2012.

VII.G. EDINA DAY OF SERVICE DETAILS SHARED

The Executive Director of Connecting With Kids (CWK), Heather Haen Anderson, had provided an e-mail with news for boards and commissions regarding the Edina Day of Service to be held on Saturday, October 15th. CWK is a City-wide initiative to support asset development in the youth of Edina. The event is all about providing service to the community in collaboration with the schools, churches, civic organizations and individuals. The website—connectingwithkidsedina.org—will be up and running with updates for service projects and the latest ideas.

VII.H. TAPED MEETING IN NOVEMBER DISCUSSED

Because the November Commission meeting will be its annual meeting and broadcasted on cable TV, ideas for creating the meeting agenda were shared:

- Introduction of Commissioners
- Census data update
- Domestic Partnerships
- Anti-Bullying initiative
- Days of Remembrance
- Bias/Hate Crime Response Plan

It was suggested that the Director of Hennepin South Services Collaborative and the new Director of the Edina Resource Center attend and highlight demographics and census information in a PowerPoint presentation.

Motion by Commissioner Winnick and seconded by Commissioner Newell to create an agenda at the regular meeting in October for the November Commission meeting which focuses on past accomplishments.

Ayes: Bigbee, Finsness, Newell, Seidman, Stanton, Winnick and Chair Kingston
Abstain: Cashmore
Motion carried.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

No correspondence or petitions were received.

IX. CHAIR AND COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- Commissioner Stanton reported that he had communicated with the City Manager and the City Attorney regarding the Commission's ability to advocate/educate during the upcoming dialogue about the marriage constitutional amendment. The advice received was that HRRC could take a position and adopt a resolution pertaining to the subject but could not expend public funds advocating its position. In addition, HRRC could host an educational forum as long as multiple points of view are presented. Commissioner Stanton recommended that this be discussed as part of next year's Work Plan.

- Chair Kingston reported that she will prepare the League’s GLBT Resolution to present to the Edina City Council for approval. She also shared that 13 Minnesota cities have now passed a Domestic Partnership Ordinance and that she will be attending a November meeting in Plymouth to discuss creating an ordinance.
- Commissioner Finsness shared that the film “The Bully Project” could be considered as the topic for the next Edina Dialogue. This film is a new feature-length documentary that follows "a year in the life" of America's bullying crisis and offers an intimate look at how bullying has touched the lives of five kids and their families. It stimulates the concept of a grass-roots movement to prevent bullying through new school and community initiatives including campaigns, social media, and video projects.

X. STAFF COMMENTS

There were no comments.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business on the Commission Agenda, Chair Kingston declared the meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Howl, HRRC Staff Liaison

Minutes approved by HRRC, October 25, 2011.

Jessi Kingston, HRRC Chair