

APPROVED MINUTES

Human Rights Commission

Monday, July 20, 2015

5:30 PM

McLeod Conference Room
1800 West Old Shakopee Road

I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS – 5:30 P.M.

- 1.1 Call to Order and Roll Call** Present: Whitney Batterson, Sheila Fishman, Dennis Kane, Daniela Kunkel, Jared Leese, Johnathon McClellan, Ibrahim Yusuf (5:31 p.m.)
- Absent: John Doble, Jessica Kietzman
- Staff: Lorinda Pearson, Manager and Staff Liaison, Human Services Division
Heather Lambert, Administrative Assistant, Human Services Division
- Guests: Dr. Joyce Ester, President, Normandale Community College
Councilmember Jon Oleson (arrive 6:56 p.m.)
- Chair D. Kane called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present.
- 1.2 Approval of Minutes - June 15, 2015** M/J. Leese, S/S. Fishman unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2015 meeting.
- 1.3 Adoption of Agenda** M/S. Fishman, S/J. McClellan unanimously carried to approve the amended agenda with the following changes: Add DDAC under Public Relations of the 2015 Work Plan and change J. Kietzman to L. Pearson for the Somali Community Conversations under Cultural Competence of the 2015 Work Plan.
- 1.4 Announcements** W. Batterson stated Healing MN Stories, a Native American group, is creating awareness about the opportunity for input on removing artwork from the Minnesota State Capitol while the capitol is undergoing renovations. The artwork may be offensive and/or does not accurately depict Minnesota history. The plan is to replace it with artwork which will reflect positively on Native American history and other cultural populations that represent Minnesota's demographics. Healing MN Stories is presenting at a meeting on July 22, 2015 for local groups that may have an interest in this project.

II. PROGRAM – 5:35 P.M.

- 2.1 Human Rights/Diversity Day Activities at Normandale Community College** D. Kane welcomed Dr. Joyce Ester, President of Normandale Community College, and invited her to start her program.
- President Ester stated she will celebrate her one year anniversary of working at Normandale Community College on August 2, 2015. She is originally from Chicago, and spent 20 years working in California at schools including University of California-Santa Barbara, Fresno State University and Bakersfield Community College. It was while in Bakersfield she discovered her passion for working at the Community College level.
- The mission of Normandale Community College is to advance individuals' intellectual, career, and personal development by providing outstanding teaching and support. The vision of Normandale is to be a recognized leader in academic excellence, student support, and community and workforce development.

Nationally, enrollment is declining at Community Colleges. However, Normandale is the only Minnesota State Community College to be experiencing positive enrollment; currently they are on track for an 8% enrollment increase this year.

President Ester attributes part of this growth to the partnerships Normandale Community College has established with Dimensions Academy, Bloomington Public School's Career and College Academy, other 2-year colleges and with 4-year universities.

One of her goals as President is to increase the diversity of faculty and staff to be on par with the diversity of the students. Faculty has encouraged diversity by declaring April Diversity and Inclusion Month, conducting Search Committee Training, participating in Community Engagement Events (including Twin Cities Pride, the Dragon Festival and Rondo Days), and hosting Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) training for the Administrative Council and the President's Council on Diversity.

The student success rate at Normandale is 94%, meaning for every 100 white student successes, 94 people of color experience success. The lowest student success rates are found with African American men. President Ester is going to work on this by seeking more African American staff and faculty members.

Another one of her goals as President is to increase funding. As a state agency, Normandale receives funding from tuition and from the State of Minnesota. The amount of funding from the State is currently at 30%. To gain more funding, Normandale will need to step up fundraising efforts and go after private donors.

President Ester stated one project Normandale is working on has to do with the social and emotional health of its students, and they have created a Health and Wellness Initiative.

In closing, when asked how the HRC can partner and help Normandale Community College, she stated Commissioners should encourage diverse people to apply for open positions, and to talk to underserved and/or underrepresented youth about opportunities to put themselves at an advantage.

III. CONTINUING BUSINESS – 6:15 P.M.

3.1 2015 Work Plan

Public Relations

- DDAC

J. McClellan reported the DDAC has formulated recommendations to present to the Superintendent related to religious issues Bloomington Public Schools are currently experiencing. He looks forward to continuing this DDAC work when school starts up again in the fall.

- National Night Out

D. Kane stated National Night Out is August 4, 2015. D. Kane, J. Leese, I. Yusuf and W. Batterson have volunteered to share HRC information with neighborhoods hosting get-togethers. The Police Department will release which Bloomington neighborhoods are open to having visitors after July 24, 2015.

- Digital On-line Resources

W. Batterson demonstrated maneuvering around the digital on-line resources webpage being developed for the City of Bloomington website. The webpage will define the various protected classes and will list resources associated with each class. L. Pearson stated the HRC will soon have an E-Subscribe newsletter, which will contain information on HRC events,

meeting minutes and agendas, etc. A sample HRC E-Subscribe newsletter was shared with Commissioners.

- Creekside
Community Center
Open House
 - Need Booth
Volunteers

D. Kane stated a Creekside Open House and Safety Fest will take place on October 3, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. L. Pearson stated this is an opportunity for the community to see what is going on at the Community Center. The Open House and Safety Fest will feature many activities including Police and Fire Department demonstrations, pony rides, food, etc. W. Batterson, J. Kietzman and D. Kane are signed up to volunteer.
- Equality
 - 25th Anniversary of
ADA events
 - Re-cap
Proclamation

L. Pearson stated the 25th Anniversary of the ADA Proclamation was accepted by Bloomington resident John Schatzlein at the July 6, 2015 City Council meeting. Mr. Schatzlein is a long time advocate for the rights of person with disabilities in Bloomington and the State of Minnesota. L. Pearson announced that former HRC Commissioner Bob Peters was to have also accepted this Proclamation, however he unexpectedly passed away on June 25, 2015. Mr. Peters was a past Omar Bonderud Award winner and a pioneer in establishing accessibility in the community to education, facilities, and businesses. He was instrumental in making Bloomington a city which has been in the forefront of establishing programs and facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Community
Event

D. Kane stated a Community Event will take place on July 23, 2015 to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the ADA at Bloomington Civic Plaza. An event timeline was passed out to Commissioners. J. Doble, D. Kunkel, W. Batterson, and I. Yusuf have volunteered to assist at this event. D. Kane will be present to give the Welcome.
- Cultural Competence
 - International Day of
Peace
 - Approve
Proclamation
 - Naturalization
Ceremony
 - A Peace of
Mind Exhibit
 - Speaker

D. Kane stated a draft International Day of Peace Proclamation was included in Commissioner packets. M/J. McClellan, S/W. Batterson carried to approve the Proclamation for International Day of Peace as presented. J. Leese volunteered to accept the Proclamation at the August 24, 2015 City Council meeting. D. Kane stated a Naturalization Ceremony will take place on September 9, 2015 at Bloomington Civic Plaza. Federal Judge Donovan Frank will conduct the ceremony. S. Fishman and J. McClellan volunteered to work this event. D. Kane stated A Peace of Mind Exhibit will run at Bloomington Civic Plaza, September 14, 2015- October 5, 2015. A community event showcasing speaker John Noltner is planned for September 22, 2015. S. Fishman indicated September 22, 2015 is Yom Kippur, and she would have preferred another evening to have been selected. J. Leese, D. Kunkel, J. Kietzman and W. Batterson are volunteered for the event.
- Heritage Days
 - Cultural
Entertainment
 - Booth
Volunteers

J. Leese stated the Heritage Days Committee met and narrowed their recommendation to five multicultural performance groups for the HRC to sponsor at Heritage Days. L. Pearson stated the Heritage Days Organization has only had one planning meeting to date, with another meeting planned in the near future. T. Smith will attend this meeting and research the potential of the HRC having their own entertainment stage. W. Batterson, J. Doble, and D. Kane have already volunteered to work the HRC booth.
- Community
Conversations
 - Somali
 - African
American

L. Pearson stated she met with Doug Belton of the Joint Community Police Partnership (JCPP) to discuss Community Conversations, a series of events designed to promote communication with Bloomington's diverse communities. J. Kietzman has volunteered to attend the Somali Community Conversations. A volunteer from the HRC is needed to attend the African American Community Conversations. J. McClellan stated he would like to attend, but is unable to go on Saturdays. L. Pearson recommended he

contact D. Belton to inquire about the meeting dates and any input he may have regarding increasing participation in the meetings. I. Yusuf stated he is working with D. Belton to collaborate on how to get more community involvement.

- Leadership
 - Team Building
 - Recommendations

D. Kane stated the HRC Executive Committee is currently exploring team building options, per the 2015 Work Plan. When recommendations have been formulated, they will be presented to the HRC for approval.

- Omar Bonderud Award
 - Approve Application

W. Batterson stated the Omar Bonderud Award Committee met and she presented the proposed changes to the award application form. M/J. Lesse, S/D. Kunkel to approve the 2015 Omar Bonderud Award Application as presented with following corrections: amending the application deadline date year from 2014 to 2015 on the cover page and on page two. S. Fishman inquired about nominating individuals and organizations, and L. Pearson encouraged Commissioners to contact T. Smith to share information and/or possible nominees.

3.2 Quarterly Complaint Report

L. Pearson stated the Quarterly Complaint Report was included in Commissioner packets. There were no contacts in April, one contact in May and two contacts in June.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS – 6:45 P.M.

4.1 Diversity Day at Twins Game

W. Batterson attended Diversity Day at the Minnesota Twins game on July 7, 2015. She stated it was a fun day with many activities taking place.

4.2 Change in Executive Committee meeting time

L. Pearson stated two members of the HRC Executive Committee have requested to change the time of their meetings from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Committee will still meet the first Tuesday of the month at Bloomington Civic Plaza. This change in meeting time will be publicly announced.

V. FINAL COMMENTS – 6:55 P.M.

J. McClellan inquired about the possibility for Commissioners to obtain City HRC shirts to wear while working at events. L. Pearson stated there are no shirts right now. She will do some research and check the budget to see if Commissioners could acquire the shirts.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – 7:00 P.M.

M/J. McClellan , S/S. Fishman unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m.