

APPROVED MINUTES

Human Rights Commission
Monday, February 23, 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, John Doble, Dennis Kane, Jessica Kietzman, Daniela Kunkel, Johnathon McClellan
- Absent: Sheila Fishman, Jared Leese
- Staff: Lorinda Pearson, Manager and Staff Liaison, Human Services Division
Heather Lambert, Administrative Assistant, Human Services Division
- Guests: Doug Belton, Joint Community Police Partnership
- Chair D. Kane called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. A quorum was present.
- 1.2 Approval of Minutes** M/W. Batterson , S/J. McClellan unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting.
- 1.3 Adoption of Agenda** M/J. Doble, S/J. McClellan unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.
- 1.4 Oaths of Office** J. Doble, J. Kietzman and J. McClellan read and signed their Oaths of Office for terms ending December 31, 2016.
- 1.5 Announcements** There were no announcements.

II. PROGRAM

- 2.1 Joint Community Police Partnership** D. Belton, Community Liaison, stated the Joint Community Police Partnership (JCPP) is a multi- and inter-agency effort between Hennepin County and six (6) Cities (Bloomington, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Hopkins, Richfield and St. Louis Park). The mission of the JCPP is to enhance communication and understanding between law enforcement and cultural communities within these municipalities.

The JCPP strategic goals are to improve community members' knowledge and understanding of the law and the police, improve police officers' knowledge and understanding of cultural communities, and provide more opportunities for positive interaction and two-way communication between police and the community.

There are five key elements to the JCPP:

1. Community Liaisons are embedded in the police department.
2. Establish a Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC).
3. Creation of multicultural-oriented Cadet and Community Service Officer positions.
4. Cultural awareness and language training for law enforcement officers.
5. Community trainings.

The Community Liaisons act as bridges between the police and the

community. The Community Liaisons engage community members and organizations by identifying local community organizations, identifying local community leaders, building community trust, identifying local Human Services, listening to community needs, and connecting resources to the community.

Community Liaisons have interaction with Law Enforcement through roll call trainings, day-long trainings and language classes, participating in community dialogues, facilitating Q & A sessions with community members and police, presenting at community events and participating in New Arrival Sessions.

Community connections are made through community gatherings and trainings in places of worship, social service agencies, schools, etc., meeting in Community Leaders' homes, hosting town hall forums and Q & A Sessions.

Community trainings offered include the New Americans' Academies, neighborhood meetings, community dialogues, Youth and Teen Academies and with the Face2Face program.

The Bloomington Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) currently consists of eight (8) members, with the goal of growing to ten or eleven (10/11) members. This is a diverse group representing many different ethnicities and nationalities. The MAC meets monthly and advises the Police Department on issues within the community. The group ensures that community members are informed about the Police, and assists in developing cultural trainings for Police Officers.

D. Belton explained the New Americans Academy as being a six (6) week class (a future class will be three weeks) designed to teach immigrant and refugee community members about Public Safety topics such as Introduction to Police/Role of Police, 911, Traffic Stops/Safety, Domestic Violence/Child Protection, Fire Safety/Code Enforcement, etc.

D. Belton also explained that Holiday Helpers in Blue took twenty (20) Bloomington children, nominated by community members, with each child given donated money to spend on gifts at Walmart and Target. These children also had lunch with Bloomington Police Department Officers. This program has expanded by 100% from 2013.

The JCPP has also partnered with the League of Women Voters, Bloomington Public Schools Career and College Academy and Normandale College, collaborated with the Richfield JCPP on legal rights training on youth arrests on February 11, 2015, will participate in the Community Resources fair on March 3, 2015, the Penumbra Race Workshop on March 7, 2015, present the film "Documented" (the story of Jose Antonio Vargas) on April 28, 2015.

D. Belton is developing the program K2C, "Kids 2 Cops", which will encourage children to become interested in a career in law enforcement, moving them into the Police Explorer program at age 14, until they become eligible to become Community Service Officers (CSO) at age 18.

L. Pearson stated the HRC is seeking opportunities to support the efforts of the JCPP.

III. CONTINUING BUSINESS**3.1 2015 Work Plan**

- Public Relations
 - District #271 Diversity Council (DDAC)
 - Diversity Day Activities
 - JHS Diversity Committee
- Equality
 - Thurgood Marshall Events
 - Historical Quilt Exhibit
- Cultural Competence
 - Block Captains Workshop

D. Kane stated he attended the February 3, 2015 meeting of the DDAC. At the meeting, the merger of the Office of Equitable Education (OEE) and the Office of Family Engagement (OFE) was announced, as there is much overlap between the Offices. L. Pearson stated the DDAC is mandated by the State of Minnesota. As D. Kane is serving as the HRC Liaison to the DDAC for the interim, another Commissioner will be appointed to the DDAC at a future HRC meeting.

D. Kane stated Diversity Day is taking place in May. The HRC sponsored speaker for the 2015 Diversity Day is Kevin Kling. The HRC is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the passing of the ADA in 2015, and the HRC specifically sought a speaker on disabilities to tie these events together. In addition, there will be a t-shirt contest, Peace Run, and booth displays.

D. Kunkel reported she has not been able to attend a JHS Diversity Committee meeting.

D. Kane stated he attended a Thurgood Marshall event committee meeting in January. Outreach efforts include a panel of Judges and Attorneys of color visiting Kennedy High School on April 20, 2015, Jefferson High School on April 24, 2015, and a general assembly of both schools taking place on April 29, 2015. The committee is seeking permission to show a Thurgood Marshall film done by TPT in Bloomington, along with a possible appearance by the film maker. D. Kane encouraged Commissioners to attend "Thurgood", a play based on the life of Thurgood Marshall, at the Illusion Theater. The play is being performed March 5, 2015 – March 15, 2015.

W. Batterson reported there was a large turn-out of 82 people at "The Underground Railroad Quilts: Fact or Fiction?", an event co-sponsored by the HRC and the Bloomington Historical Society on February 22, 2015 at Bloomington Town Hall. The presentation covered the possibility of quilt patches being used to guide people through the Underground Railroad. W. Batterson, D. Kane, J. Klietzman, J. McClellan and J. Leese were in attendance. L. Pearson stated Bloomington Town Hall was not accessible because of the large crowd attending, which is something the HRC must consider when selecting facilities in the future.

J. Doble stated the Block Captains Workshop is taking place the morning of March 21, 2015. D. Kunkel, W. Batterson and D. Kane signed up to volunteer, and J. Doble will check his calendar. D. Kane stated the HRC is sponsoring a speaker on mental illness during the Workshop, and Block Captains will be able to bring this information out into the community. L. Pearson stated mental illness training is important in Bloomington as many residential facilities are being created, and this training may help dispel myths about those being treated for mental illness and bring about education.

IV. NEW BUSINESS**4.1 City Council Request - 2015 Work Plan**

D. Kane stated while presenting the 2015 Work Plan at the January 26, 2015, a few City Council members inquired if the HRC may want to further explore race relations and offer events in venues such as in-home small dinner parties. L. Pearson stated these small dinner parties successfully took place in the past, but such events require a lot of work. D. Kane stated the HRC will wait to proceed until the City Council and City Manager give formal direction.

V. FINAL COMMENTS

D. Kane stated he and E. Janssen spoke to Transition Plus students at Metro South in Bloomington the morning on February 23, 2015. E. Janssen presented on community resources available to students and their families and D. Kane discussed issues relating to the HRC and the concept of mediation.

D. Kane stated he and E. Janssen have been attending planning meetings for the 25 Anniversary of the ADA celebrations. One event is taking place in July, and an ADA conference will take place in September or October, date to be determined.

L. Pearson encouraged Commissioners to look over the 2015 HRC Work Plan, and place the dates of events on their calendars.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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