

APPROVED MINUTES

Human Rights Commission

Monday, March 16, 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, Sheila Fishman, Dennis Kane, Jessica Kietzman, Daniela Kunkel, Jared Leese, Johnathon McClellan
- Staff: Tracy Smith, Administrative Coordinator, Human Services Division
Heather Lambert, Administrative Assistant, Human Services Division
- Guests: Nancy Blankfard, Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc.
Diann Kirby, Community Services Director
- Chair D. Kane called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present.
- 1.2 Approval of Minutes** M/J. McClellan, S/D. Kunkel unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2015 meeting.
- 1.3 Adoption of Agenda** M/W. Batterson, S/J. McClellan unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the following changes: under 3.1 3015 Work Plan, add Community Enrichment Fair and PACER's "The Unity Awards" event.
- 1.4 Oath of Office** J. Leese read and signed his Oath of Office for a term ending December 31, 2016. The Commissioners went around the table and introduced themselves.
- 1.5 Announcements** D. Kane stated the film "Documented", a film by an undocumented immigrant, will be shown on Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Schneider Theatre at Bloomington Civic Plaza. This event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Joint Community Police Partnership.
- D. Kane stated a Volunteer Recognition is taking place on April 18, 2015 at the Bloomington Knights of Columbus from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. T. Smith stated HRC Commissioners will receive an invitation in the mail to this breakfast that recognizes all City of Bloomington volunteers. D. Kane encouraged Commissioners to attend as this is a good opportunity to meet people.

II. PROGRAM – 5:35 p.m.

- 2.1 City of Bloomington Community Center Needs Assessment** Nancy Blankfard, Associate Vice President at Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc. (HGA) presented on the City of Bloomington Community Center Needs Assessment, which she is working on.
- The Needs Assessment includes an evaluation of the existing Creekside Community Center facility, conducting stakeholder meetings, performing a demographic analysis, performing a competitive market analysis, assessing present and future program needs, providing an operations analysis, and providing a construction cost estimate.

While looking over data collected, it has been determined that a successful

Community Center is comfortable and welcoming, integrates communities, is human services focused, and accommodates users that are multi-economical, multi-generational and multi-cultural.

The Community Needs Assessment has found there are six major categories for space needs in a Community Center in Bloomington: common gathering space, education spaces, fitness areas, Community Services offices, the Department of Motor Vehicle and the Division of Public Health.

N. Blankfard is reviewing information with Bloomington Commissions, and will refine space needs, create an operations analysis and create a cost estimate. The findings will be reported to the City Council in April.

J. McClellan suggested HGA take a look at the Eagles Nest Indoor Playground in New Brighton as a model Community Center. He inquired about where money for a new City of Bloomington Community Center would come from, with N. Blankfard responding a future step in the Needs Assessment process includes figuring out a funding source.

J. Doble stated there is a shortage of free meeting space for groups, such as non-profits, to meet in the City of Bloomington, and would like to see a new Community Center take this into consideration.

W. Batterson recommended the Community Center have a large space with a stage to host community events, such as programs sponsored by the HRC.

S. Fishman inquired about the location of a new Community Center. N. Blankfard reported possible locations are being assessed, as Creekside Community Center is not able to be extended. D. Kirby stated accessibility is an important feature of a Community Center location.

N. Blankfard stated comments are still being collected for the Needs Assessment. T. Smith stated if Commissioners have any additional input, please share it with L. Pearson and she will pass it on to N. Blankfard.

III. CONTINUING BUSINESS – 6:15 p.m.

3.1 2015 Work Plan

- Public Relations
 - Community Resource Fair

D. Kane stated he attended the Community Resource Fair at Metro South Adult Basic Education with Emily Janssen on March 3, 2015. They provided information and resources to attendees.
 - African Community Senior Services Meeting

J. Kietzman stated she attended a meeting with African Community Senior Services, along with D. Kane and City staff on March 3, 2015. Said Ali, from African Community Senior Services, shared that many Somali community members are going to their Organization for resources, and not the City of Bloomington for already existing services. She anticipates more outreach efforts to be made to reach Somali community members.
 - Meet & Greet with Somali Community

J. Kietzman stated she attended a Meet & Greet with Somali community leaders on March 5, 2015, hosted by the Bloomington Public Health Division. Public Health and Human Services shared resources available to community members. Public Health explained CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), a partnership between emergency services and the people they serve. CERT is seeking multicultural community members who are interested in supporting local emergency preparedness, response, recovery and outreach activities. These Cultural Services Unit (CSU) members will serve as cultural connectors for their community, and a three day training class is in the near future.

- Celebrating International Women's Day

J. Kietzman stated she attended Celebrating International Women's Day: Strong Women, Strong Communities! event with Emily Janssen on March 8, 2015. The HRC, Human Services Division and the Public Health Division shared a booth, explained services available to attendees and handed out brochures.
 - Annual Egg Hunt
 - Booth Volunteers

D. Kane stated the Annual Egg Hunt is on April 4, 2015. This is an opportunity for the HRC to reach out to a group of diverse attendees. W. Batterson and J. Kietzman volunteered to staff the HRC booth at the event.
 - DDAC
 - Need Representative

D. Kane reported the DDAC is in need of a representative from the HRC. T. Smith stated the DDAC typically meets the first Tuesday of the month from 4:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is April 7, 2015. J. McClellan stated he will check his schedule, and will let H. Lambert know if he is able to attend the April 7th meeting.
 - Diversity Day Activities
 - Select Design Winner

The Commissioners chose the winning t-shirt logo design to be displayed on the Diversity Day t-shirt, with the design placed on a black t-shirt. The winner of the t-shirt logo contest will be recognized at the April 20, 2015 City Council meeting and the April 27, 2015 School Board meeting. J. Doble and D. Kane will be present at the City Council meeting and J. Leese and D. Kane will attend the School Board presentation. The winner will receive a \$100 certified check donated by the Richfield Bloomington Credit Union and a donated Chipotle Gift Card.
 - City Council Presentation

Diversity Day is taking place at Jefferson High School and Kennedy High School on May 1, 2015. The keynote speaker at both schools is Kevin Kling, who will be speaking on the topic of disabilities, in honor of the 25th Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) being celebrated this summer. W. Batterson, D. Kunkel and J. McClellan volunteered to work the HRC Booth at Jefferson High School and S. Fishman and J. Kietzman volunteered to work the HRC Booth at Kennedy High School.
 - School Board Presentation

D. Kunkel reported the JHS Diversity Committee is currently selecting which clubs will be allowed to have booths at Diversity Day.
 - Booth Volunteers

T. Smith stated a Community Enrichment Fair is taking place on April 23, 2015 at Kennedy High School during parent-teacher conferences. This is an opportunity to network and provide resources and referrals. D. Kane and S. Fishman volunteered to work the HRC booth, with W. Batterson and J. Kietzman being available as needed.
 - Equality
 - Thurgood Marshall Events
 - Illusion Theater

D. Kane announced he attended "Thurgood" at the Illusion Theater while it was showing March 5, 2015 – March 15, 2015. J. Kietzman also attended, and enjoyed the discussion that took place after the performance. T. Smith stated Kennedy High School is doing a Thurgood Marshall program with 11th graders on April 20, 2015 and Jefferson High School is doing a Thurgood Marshall program with 11th graders on April 24, 2015. There will be a general assembly for both high schools on April 29, 2015, featuring a panel of lawyers and judges of color discussing how Thurgood Marshall influenced their lives, along with a portion of the "Thurgood" performance at the Illusion Theater.
 - Kennedy High School

T. Smith stated the HRC is co-sponsoring a film/panel discussion on May 12, 2015 at Bloomington Civic Plaza. The Federal District Courts of Minnesota, the Federal Bar Association Diversity Committee and the Minnesota Black Lawyers Association have been asked to co-sponsor this event.
 - Jefferson High School

D. Kane stated the Block Captains Workshop is on March 21, 2015. The
 - School District General Assembly
 - City Event
 - Cultural Competence

- Block Captains Workshop
 - Booth Assignments

 - Approve Proclamation-Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month
 - Volunteer

 - Leadership
 - PACER's "The Unity Awards"
- HRC is sponsoring a speaker on mental illness from NAMI-MN (National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota) from 10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. D. Kunkel, W. Batterson, D. Kane and J. Doble will work the HRC Booth.
- T. Smith stated April is Genocide Awareness and Prevention month. M/S. Fishman, S/J. Leese unanimously carried to approve the Proclamation for Genocide Awareness and Prevention month as amended. J. Leese and D. Kane volunteered to accept the Proclamation at the April 6, 2015 City Council meeting.
- T. Smith stated PACER'S National Bullying Prevention Center is hosting The Unity Awards on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at the Bloomington Center for the Arts. PACER has asked the City to partner in this event. The next Committee meeting is April 9, 2015 at 4:00 p.m., and J. Kietzman volunteered to attend the meeting.

IV. FINAL COMMENTS

There were no final comments.

V. ADJOURNMENT

M/S. Fishman , S/J. Doble unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

