

APPROVED MINUTES

Human Rights Commission

Monday, August 17, 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, Jared Leese, Johnathon McClellan (5:34 p.m.), Ibrahim Yusuf (5:32 p.m.)
- Absent: Daniela Kunkel
- Staff: Lorinda Pearson, Manager and Staff Liaison, Human Services Division
Heather Lambert, Administrative Assistant, Human Services Division
- Guests: None
- Chair D. Kane called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present.
- 1.2 Approval of Minutes** M/S. Fishman, S/J. Kietzman unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2015 meeting.
- 1.3 Adoption of Agenda** M/J. Leese, S/J. McClellan unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.
- 1.4 Announcements** D. Kane stated a Japanese Lantern Lighting Festival is taking place on Sunday, August 23, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at Como Park. L. Pearson stated the event encompasses all aspects of Japanese culture, including music, dance, crafts, martial arts, food and lanterns.
- D. Kane stated the State Department of Human Rights Conference is taking place on December 3, 2015 at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center. This annual Conference brings together speakers and presenters to promote dialogue around human rights issues important to Minnesotans. More information about this educational opportunity will be shared with Commissioners as the Conference date approaches.

II. PROGRAM – 5:35 P.M.

- 2.1 Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans** Due to traffic and rain, Ms. Sia Her's (Executive Director) presentation on the Council of Asian Pacific Minnesotans will be rescheduled for another HRC meeting.

III. CONTINUING BUSINESS – 6:15 P.M.

- 3.1 2015 Work Plan**
- Public Relations
 - DDAC
- D. Kane stated National Night Out took place on August 4, 2015. He reported he visited nine (9) neighborhood block parties on behalf of the Human Rights Commission. J. Leese stated he attended four (4) neighborhood block parties, and the children appreciated receiving the multicultural crayons and coloring books he passed out. I. Yusuf attended one (1) neighborhood block party, where he received several questions about City services. D. Kane stated when Commissioners attend neighborhood block parties on National Night Out, they help increase HRC visibility in the community.

- Digital On-line Resources

W. Batterson gave a live demonstration of the Digital Online Resources that she and Human Services staff have worked on. She showed Commissioners how to navigate the HRC webpage, which includes resources and website links to more information on: Race, Color, Creed, Religion, National Origin, Sex, Marital Status, Disability, Public Assistance, Age, Sexual Orientation, Familial Status and Local Human Rights Commission Activity. The Digital Online Resources will be placed on the Human Rights Commission's webpage when it goes live, which will be soon. D. Kane thanked W. Batterson for her research and work on this project. W. Batterson stated the Digital Online Resources is a work in progress and encouraged Commissioners to share their suggestions for additional resources with her.

- Creekside Community Center Open House

D. Kane reminded Commissioners the Creekside Community Center Open House and Safety Fest is October 3, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. W. Batterson, D. Kane and J. Kietzman have volunteered to represent the HRC at this event.

- Equality
 - 25th Anniversary of ADA events
 - Re-cap Community Event

W. Batterson stated the Community Event in honor of the 25th Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) took place on July 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Bloomington Civic Plaza. The Event featured a panel of presenters on the ADA and its impact on those with disabilities. She stated the tribute in memory of former Commissioner Bob Peters at the end of the program was well done. I. Yusuf stated the program was informative and well organized. He appreciated hearing how forward-thinking the State of Minnesota was on establishing programs and facilities accessible to persons with disabilities before the rest of the country. D. Kane pointed out a flyer for the "ADA at 25: Minnesota Moving Forward" Event, taking place on October 28, 2015 at the Minneapolis Convention Center, was included in Commissioner packets. He stated the Minnesota State Council on Disability has invited the HRC to display information at their booth at the State Fair, and he is excited for this partnership.

- Cultural Competence
 - International Day of Peace
 - Proclamation
 - Naturalization Ceremony
 - A Peace of Mind Exhibit
 - Speaker – John Noltner

D. Kane stated J. Leese will accept the International Day of Peace Proclamation at the August 24, 2015 City Council meeting. A Naturalization Ceremony is scheduled for September 9, 2015 at Bloomington Civic Plaza and S. Fishman, D. Kane and J. McClellan have volunteered to work this event. In honor of the International Day of Peace, the HRC is sponsoring the multimedia art project "A Peace of My Mind", created by Bloomington resident John Noltner. This Exhibit features 52 portraits that are accompanied by personal stories of Minnesotans who were asked the question, "What does peace mean to you?". The Exhibit will be on display September 15, 2015 – October 4, 2015 at Bloomington Civic Plaza. A Community Event featuring John Noltner is taking place on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. (6:30 p.m. reception) at Bloomington Civic Plaza. He will share stories and lessons learned from interviews he conducted around the country on the topic of peace. J. Leese, D. Kunkel, D. Kane, and J. Kietzman previously volunteered to work this Event. W. Batterson is now also available to volunteer at this Event.

- Heritage Days
 - Cultural Entertainment
 - Booth Volunteers

D. Kane stated Heritage Days is taking place on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at Nativity of Mary in Bloomington. J. Leese stated he was pleased with the multicultural entertainment the Committee selected for the Event. A schedule of volunteer shifts was passed out to Commissioners.

- Community Conversations

J. Kietzman stated she was unavailable to attend the last Community Conversations meeting sponsored by the Joint Community Police Partnership (JCPP). She stated Doug Belton, JCPP, is seeking additional ways to encourage community members to attend these meetings.

- Tracks in the Snow Exhibit: the Minnesota Muslim Experience
D. Kane stated the “Tracks in the Snow Exhibit: the Minnesota Muslim Experience” will be at Bloomington Civic Plaza October 12, 2015 – November 6, 2015. This traveling exhibit of twenty-five (25) canvas photographs is designed to expose viewers to the untold narratives of Minnesota Muslims. D. Kane stated the importance of Commissioners to attend Exhibits sponsored by the HRC. L. Pearson stated the City of Eden Prairie is sponsoring this Exhibit after Bloomington from November 12, 2015 – December 3, 2015.
- Leadership
••Team Building
L. Pearson stated a consultant has been contacted to meet with the Executive Committee at their September meeting to discuss a team building activity for the HRC, per the 2015 Work Plan. The Executive Committee will give their team building recommendations to the entire HRC after meeting with the consultant.
- Omar Bonderud Award
D. Kane stated the Omar Bonderud Award application was approved at the July HRC meeting and has been distributed. W. Batterson pointed out the application deadline date is August 28, 2015.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS – 6:45 P.M.

- 4.1 **Healing MN Stories – MN State Capitol Artwork Presentation**
D. Kane stated he attended the Healing Minnesota Stories – MN State Capitol Artwork presentation on Wednesday, July 22, 2015. A major renovation of the Minnesota State Capitol is underway. This has created an opportunity to place artwork in the capitol that more accurately reflects the state’s diverse population. The Capitol Preservation Commission has created an Art Subcommittee to gather public comment of what stories the art in the capitol should tell about Minnesota, its history and its people. Healing Minnesota Stories, a group which creates opportunities for understanding and healing between Native and non-Native peoples, will be following the Capitol Preservation Commission’s Art Subcommittee as they collect this information.
- 4.2 **Commission Shirts**
L. Pearson stated matching shirts will be made for Commissioners to wear at HRC events and HRC booth activity. Sample sizes are available for Commissioners to try on after the meeting.
- 4.3 **Change in Executive Committee Meeting Date**
D. Kane stated the November Executive Committee meeting has been moved back one day to November 4, 2015. An updated calendar of HRC meeting dates was included in Commissioner packets.

V. FINAL COMMENTS – 6:55 P.M.

There were no final comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – 7:00 P.M.

M/J. McClellan, S/S. Fishman unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m.