

# APPROVED MINUTES

## Human Rights Commission

Monday, March 21, 2016

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: Zavier Bicott, Maureen Carlson, Dennis Kane, Jared Leese, Johnathon McCellan, Ibrahim Yusuf
- Absent: Sheila Fishman, Daniela Kunkel, Savannah Salato
- Staff: Tracy Smith, Administrative Coordinator, Human Services Division  
Heather Lambert, Administrative Assistant, Human Services Division
- Guests: Jamie Verbrugge, Bloomington City Manager  
Tim Sasse, Municipal Cable Coordinator, Communications Division
- Chair D. Kane called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present.
- 1.2 Approval of Minutes - February 22, 2016** M/Z. Bicott, S/J. McClellan unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2016 meeting as presented.
- 1.3 Adoption of Agenda** M/Z. Bicott, S/J. Leese unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.
- 1.4 Announcements** D. Kane encouraged Commissioners to attend the 2016 All City Volunteer Breakfast, taking place on Saturday, April 9, 2016 from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Marian Hall in Bloomington.

### II. PROGRAM – 5:35 P.M.

- 2.1 Re-cap State of the City** City Manager Jamie Verbrugge stated he and Mayor Gene Winstead gave the State of the City address on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at the Radisson Blu in Bloomington. The message of the presentation, “Better Together”, focused on when we work together as a team, Bloomington benefits by becoming a stronger community.

City Manager Verbrugge started with “Life is good”, as Bloomington conducted another Citizen Survey in 2015, which netted positive results.

He reported employment in Bloomington is strong, with an unemployment rate of 2.8%. This rate has been declining over the last several years. He stated 2015 was a good year for real estate. The housing market is rebounding, and the median sale price of a home in Bloomington is up. Monthly property taxes are the second lowest when compared with other cities in Hennepin County.

City Manager Verbrugge stated Bloomington is booming, having experienced a huge year in building, with over \$4 million in building permits being issued. He highlighted some Bloomington building accomplishments in 2015: the opening of Phase 2 of the Penn American development; the Mall of America opened a new entrance, office tower and hotel; South loop and several creative placemaking project;, a makeover of Hrbek Fields; the new chalet at Hyland Hills Ski Area; Park Place on France; and the City entering into an agreement to have the Hennepin County District Court be

housed at Bloomington Civic Plaza.

He stated the hospitality industry is thriving in Bloomington, with 860 hotel rooms being added in the last year, for a total of 9,000 hotel rooms in the City. He noted additional hotels will be opening in Bloomington in 2016.

The City Manager reported Bloomington stands strong financially, again being assigned top ratings for their 2015 bond sales by all three rating services, ranking with an elite few cities nationwide that hold three triple-A bond ratings.

He stated Bloomington is looking to reinvest in neighborhoods, discover redevelopment opportunities, and work to improve community needs. The City has been seeking to improve the vital I-35W/I-494 interchange for years, and hopes to begin the \$255 million dollar project in the near future. The City also has the goal of transforming the Mall of America Transit Station into a major hub for transit connections by 2018, in time for Minnesota to host the Super Bowl. This transformation is an estimated \$25 million project.

City Manager Verbrugge stated the City is also considering community gathering places, and a Task Force has been appointed to research Community Center options. Recreations opportunities are being considered, and a Task Force was created in 2015 to look at Hyland Greens Golf Course. This Task Force came back to City Council with two recommendations.

He stated the Mayor and City Council are proud of the supportive partnerships they maintain, and gave the example of the joint City Council and School Board meetings held regularly. He stated Bloomington schools are great, and this is a good reflection on the community. Additionally, the City has many ventures with community organizations and businesses.

The City Manager detailed several opportunities residents had to come together in 2015: Bloomington Public Works held their first Open House, Heritage Days, Summer Fete (attracts around 40,000 people annually), and the Bloomington Fire Department Open House.

The City Manager stated his role is to engage the community, cultivate relationships and improve communications to improve success. He stated he visited many businesses and community organizations the past year with the Mayor. While building relationships, he is focusing on three key areas: youth, neighborhoods and communities of color. City Manager Verbrugge reported the Bloomington Police Department has done a good job targeting these three areas with the Coffee with a Cop program, the Safe Summer Nights Program, the Joint Community Police Partnership (JCPP) and by visiting elementary schools.

City Manager Verbrugge concluded with his goal of fostering a high performance organization where everyone has a voice. He is determined to give staff the tools they need to build a stronger organization across the various Departments. The City is building a better Bloomington, and the City is better together when the community is based on collaboration and partnerships.

The City Manager then answered questions from the Commissioners.

### III. CONTINUING BUSINESS – 6:15 P.M.

#### 3.1 2016 Work Plan

- Public Relations
  - State of the City
 

D. Kane stated he and J. McClellan attended the State of the City, “Better Together” on March 16, 2016 at the Radisson Blu Hotel.
  - Egg Hunt and Family Walk
 

Z. Bicott stated he will be at the Egg Hunt and Family Walk with D. Kane on March 26, 2016 at the Normandale Lake Bandshell.
  - Minority Judges Reception
 

D. Kane stated he attended the Minority Judges Reception on March 1, 2016 with L. Pearson. The Reception honored women of color, and he stated it was a very good event.
  - Diversity Day Committee
 

D. Kane stated the timeline for Diversity Day 2016 is found in Commissioner packets. Diversity Day is taking place at Jefferson High School and Kennedy High School on May 6, 2016. The keynote speaker at both schools is Wing Young Huie, a professional photographer who documents people in a culturally diverse and changing urban landscape. The Commissioners chose the winning t-shirt logo design to be displayed on the Diversity Day t-shirt. The winner of the t-shirt logo contest will be recognized at the April 18, 2016 City Council meeting and the April 25, 2016 School Board meeting. The winner will receive a \$100 certified check donated by the Richfield Bloomington Credit Union. J. Leese encouraged Commissioners to stay after the April regular HRC meeting to attend the City Council meeting to show support at the City Council recognition.
  - Metro South Resource Fair
 

S. Fishman was not present to report on the Metro South Resource Fair, which took place on February 23, 2016.
  - Career Fair, Kennedy High School
 

D. Kane stated he represented the HRC at the Career Fair at Kennedy High School on March 16, 2016. He reported many students stopped by the HRC booth.
- Equality
  - Black History Month Activities
    - The Bridge to the Ballot Event
 

D. Kane stated The Bridge to the Ballot event took place on March 8, 2016 at Bloomington Civic Plaza. He thanked J. Leese for filling in for him, as he was unable to attend, and recognized all the Commissioners in attendance. Z. Bicott stated it was a good event, and he shared photos he took at the event with Commissioners via email on March 8<sup>th</sup>. T. Smith stated the event was filmed for local cable. H. Lambert will send out the dates the video can be viewed when they are made available. Z. Bicott stated he had a few comments to make on the event, which in the interest of time, D. Kane requested he share them during “Final Comments”.
  - U. S. Distric Court – Open Doors Program
 

D. Kane stated “Slavery By Another Name” is taking place in the Kennedy High School Auditorium on Thursday, April 28, 2016, and Commissioners are invited to attend this assembly for 11<sup>th</sup> graders. T. Smith stated “Slavery By Another Name” is a TPT documentary. She explained the Open Doors Program is sponsored by the U.S. District Court, and is a long term effort to look at the 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments. The U.S. District Court is seeking representatives from the HRC to sit on the planning committee. Z. Bicott, M. Carlson, J. McClellan and D. Kane stated they are interested in being part of the Open Doors Program planning committee.
- Cultural Competence
  - Block Captains Workshop
 

D. Kane stated he attended the Block Captains Workshop on March 12, 2016 at Bloomington Civic Plaza as a Block Captain, and J. McClellan and Z. Bicott were also there. Z. Bicott stated the event was well attended, but he was disappointed there were no HRC materials in the folders passed out to attendees.

••PACER “Unity” Awards, through the National Bullying Prevention Center

D. Kane stated the HRC should have a representative on the PACER “Unity” Awards planning committee. J. Leese stated he attended last year, and the event was well-attended, including many people from out-of-state. T. Smith stated the Awards ceremony is scheduled for May 25, 2016 and the event will need volunteers that night. J. McClellan volunteered for the planning committee and M. Carlson volunteered to assist at the Awards Ceremony.

**3.2 Nominating Committee**

D. Kane stated the Nominating Committee will present a Slate of Officers at the April HRC regular meeting, with the HRC voting on the Slate of Officers at the May HRC regular meeting. J. Leese stated there may be one vacancy on the Executive Committee for a one year term. He requested Commissioners interested in the vacancy send him or D. Kane a message. Z. Bicott inquired if guests may attend HRC Executive Committee meetings, which D. Kane confirmed they may. Z. Bicott stated he is interested in the vacancy on the Executive Committee.

**IV. FINAL COMMENTS – 6:55 P.M.**

Z. Bicott stated the forum, featuring three panelists, after the viewing of “The Bridge to the Ballot” was interesting. He found key issues to be poverty, criminal justice reform, and racial disparities. He stated he would like to see a member of the HRC be part of the Joint Community Police Partnership Multicultural Advisory Committee. D. Kane stated these ideas may be further developed for placement in the 2017 HRC Work Plan.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

M/M. Carlson, S/Z. Bicott unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.