

APPROVED MINUTES

Human Rights Commission

Monday, June 20, 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: Xavier Bicott, Maureen Carlson, Sheila Fishman, Dennis Kane, Jared Leese, Johnathon McClellan Savannah Salato, Ibrahim Yusuf
- Absent: Daniela Kunkel
- Staff: Lorinda Pearson, Manager and Staff Liaison, Human Services Division
Heather Lambert, Administrative Assistant, Human Services Division
- Guests: Julie Farnham, Senior Planner, Community Development Department
- Chair D. Kane called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

- 1.2 Approval of Minutes - May 16, 2016** M/Z. Bicott , S/J. Leese unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the May16, 2016 meeting as presented.

- 1.3 Adoption of Agenda** M/J. Leese , S/J. McClellan unanimously carried to approve the agenda as amended with the following changes: Add the 2016 Overcoming Racism Conference under Announcements; Add the Hispanic Legal Experience Exhibit under Equality; Add sign-up sheet for volunteers under Native American Heritage Month; and add Budget Discussion under Final Comments.

- 1.4 Announcements** D. Kane stated the Executive Committee has changed their meeting day and time for the remainder of the year. Updated 2016 meeting schedules were shared with Commissioners.

D. Kane stated feedback from the Asian Pacific Legal Experience Exhibit was included in Commissioner packets. He stated the comments shared may be useful for future planning.

D. Kane stated the 2016 Overcoming Racism Conference is taking place October 28 – 29, 2016 at Metropolitan State University. Each day will include a full slate of workshops. A flyer about the conference was sent to Commissioners via email.

II. PROGRAM – 5:35 P.M.

Julie Farnham, Senior Planner

Topic: Comprehensive Plan – Forward 2040, Taking Shape Together

Senior Planner Julie Farnham, Community Development Department, stated over the next two years, the City of Bloomington will prepare an update to its Comprehensive Plan, “Forward 2040 – Taking Shape Together”. The Planning Commission has official review responsibilities and the City Council maintains decision-making authority on the Plan, input from a community-based Advisory Committee is being sought.

J. Farnham stated the 2018 Comprehensive Plan update is required by State Statutes to ensure it is consistent with the Metropolitan Council’s system policy plans and regional development guide (Thrive MSP 2040). This is an opportunity for Bloomington to look at its goals, challenges and

opportunities and prioritize them.

J. Farnham shared data that has been collected over time, showing that Bloomington has experienced limited population growth over the years but has seen the following changes: more housing units yet smaller household sizes, increased diversity of its residents, and strong employment growth.

J. Farham stated the timeline for Forward 2040 consists of the following:
2016 – Public outreach, visioning, and existing conditions data;
2017 – Goals, policies, strategies, and compile draft plan;
2018 – Public review of draft plan, and Submission to Metropolitan Council before the end of December 2018.

J. Farnham stated a series of Town Hall Meetings will take place, and encouraged Commissioners to participate: June 22, 2016 (Sustainability), July 13 (Community Diversity and Engagement), and July 20 (Community Amenities).

J. Farnham explained an Advisory Committee is to be established this fall, consisting of 14 members (7 Officials, 7 General public). She asked the HRC to appoint a representative to serve on the Advisory Committee, and recommended also appointing an alternate. The representative will be committing to monthly meetings over 12 – 14 months, with the first meeting tentatively planned for October.

J. Farnham stated an online survey is on the City of Bloomington website and urged Commissioners to take it. She stated she wishes to give the HRC updates as progress is made on updating the Comprehensive Plan.

III. CONTINUING BUSINESS – 6:15 P.M.

3.1 2016 Work Plan

- Public Relations
 - Re-cap Diversity Day at Olson Middle School

M. Carlson stated she attended the Olson Middle School Diversity Day on Friday, May 20, 2016, and she was impressed with the event. This year is the first time a LGBT table was set up for Diversity Day. She stated many students completed Community Center surveys in order to receive a pen.
 - Community Center Task Force

D. Kane stated he continues to represent the HRC on the Community Center Task Force. He explained the first few meetings were used to create a process for evaluating the potential future of a new Community Center. Now that the process has been created, the Task Force is able to begin examining the issue of a new Community Center at their next few meetings.
 - National Night Out

D. Kane stated National Night Out is taking place on August 2, 2016. He stated Katie Swatosh, Crime Prevention Specialist with the Bloomington Police Department, has indicated the Police Department will be limiting the organizations/groups allowed to participate in National Night Out, focusing the event specifically on crime prevention. Therefore, rather than Commissioners attending neighborhood block parties promoting the HRC, mediation brochures will be included in Block Captain packets.
- Equality
 - U.S. District Court – Open Doors Program

D. Kane stated the Open Doors Program is a community outreach effort by the U.S. District Court. J. McClellan stated the committee is working on putting together a Program covering the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments, scheduled for February 20, 2017 in honor of Black History Month. D. Kane stated it is called the Second Founding Community Program, and will incorporate a viewing of the film, “Slavery By Another Name”. He also stated the U.S. District Court is launching these efforts in Bloomington, with the hope of getting the Program into the MnSCU (Minnesota State Colleges

and Universities) system. L. Pearson stated these events will continue through 2020.

- Re-cap Racial & Ethnic Disparities in Health Among Older Adults

D. Kane stated he attended the Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Among Older Adults event on May 31, 2016 at Creekside Community Center. The presentation focused on data collected and identifying how it relates to disparities, based on race and ethnicity, in healthcare in older adults.
- Hispanic Legal Rights Exhibit

L. Pearson stated exploring the possibility of co-sponsoring the “Hispanic Legal Rights Exhibit” at the Bloomington Civic Plaza with the U.S. District Court is an item listed in the 2016 HRC Work Plan under Equality. The Exhibit is not available in 2016, and staff is researching to see if it may be available in 2017.
- Cultural Competence
 - Heritage Days

Z. Bicott reported Heritage Days is taking place September 17, 2016, and the HRC is working jointly with many groups, such as the Bloomington Historical Society, Joint Community Police Partnership and Bloomington United for Youth, to provide multicultural entertainment. The planning committee selected their top six multicultural performance groups: Hung Vuong Association of MN, Somali Museum Dance Troupe, Circus Manduhai, Los Alegres Bailadores, Innocent Reggae Band, and Theater Mu. M/Z. Bicott, S/J. McClellan unanimously carried to approve the planning committee recommendations for up to six multicultural performance groups for Heritage Days.
- International Day of Peace

L. Pearson stated a Naturalization Ceremony is taking place on September 14, 2016, as part of International Peace Day activities. Volunteers are needed to give the Pledge of Allegiance and to sing the National Anthem. It would be preferable to have these roles filled by naturalized citizens. L. Pearson reported John Noltner, who presented his “A Peace of My Mind” project for International Peace Day last year, has written another book and is in the process of putting together an exhibit to match the book. However, he will not be in Minnesota for International Day of Peace this year. He is seeking to do more of a workshop format, and there may be a conversation to incorporate it in the future, perhaps involving the youth.
- Native American Heritage Month

J. Leese stated the Native American Heritage Day Month Event committee met on June 3, 2016 to plan an event taking place in November. A Proclamation to be accepted by the City Council is being drafted. The MN Native American Council has a free Exhibit that will be placed at Civic Plaza November 1 – November 29, 2016. A program is being put together for November 15, 2016, featuring the curators of the free Exhibit and Native American entertainment. Dr. Don Bartlette will be the keynote speaker. A Coffee with the Curator event may also be planned. The next Native American Heritage Day Month planning committee meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2016. J. Leese stated this is an example of how it takes 6 – 9 months of planning to have a really good event.
- Leadership
 - Re-cap PACER “Unity” Awards

D. Kane stated the PACER “Unity” Awards took place on May 25, 2016 at Bloomington Civic Plaza. The HRC received a thank you letter from PACER for their support and for providing a venue for the Event. The letter was included in Commissioner packets. In addition, the HRC received a plaque, which will be placed in the Baillif Conference Room at Bloomington Civic Plaza, next to the Omar Bonderud Award plaque. D. Kane reported it was a rich program with many attendees, involving people from across the country. M. Carlson pointed out PACER had a Youth Council to pick the Award winners.

••Omar Bonderud
Award

S. Fishman stated the Omar Bonderud Award committee met on June 1, 2016 to review and update the timeline and discuss the application. There were changes made to the language used on the application. M/S. Fishman, S/J. Leease unanimously carried to approve the Omar Bonderud Award timeline and the Omar Bonderud application with changes.

3.2 By-laws Update

L. Pearson reported the proposed changes to the HRC Bylaws will go to the City Council either June 27, 2016 or July 11, 2016 for approval. J. Leese will attend the City Council meeting. L. Pearson stated the approval of the HRC Bylaws may not be a timed item. She reminded Commissioners the recommendations to change City Code will follow a different, independent process. L. Pearson explained the proposed changes to the City Code will first be shared with all the Commission Liaisons in the City, followed by the proposed changes potentially being placed on a City Council Study Meeting Agenda. If there is interest in the proposed changes, a Public Hearing would be required, and the proposed changes would go to City Council for approval.

IV. FINAL COMMENTS

Z. Bicott inquired if Commissioners may view the HRC budget, with L. Pearson responding affirmatively. J. Leese asked about the role Commissioners should play in terms of budgeting, and to what degree the HRC should be involved in the budgeting process. L. Pearson stated the budget is approved annually, and it is based on the HRC Work Plan. She further stated the HRC is accountable for coming up with the Work Plan, while Human Services staff is responsible for coming up with a budget to support the items listed in the Work Plan. If a program cannot be supported by the budget, partners and co-sponsors need to be found. D. Kane stated Bloomington is in the top tier of Human Rights Commissions for available resources.

Z. Bicott asked if a monthly HRC complaint report was prepared, per the proposed HRC Bylaws. L. Pearson stated a monthly HRC complaint report will be prepared after the City Council approves the proposed changes to the HRC Bylaws.

V. ADJOURNMENT

M/S. Fishman, S/Z. Bicott unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.