

**Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 11, 2010  
7:00pm – City Hall – Second Floor Training Room**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Kleber, Judy Dirks, Bonnie Praver, DD Davison, David Schlosser,

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Stephen Swanson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Rhonda Pownell—City Council Liaison, Marj Evans-de-Carpio—Staff Liaison, Bill Olsen—Staff Liaison

- I. Call to order by Dick Kleber at 7:03.
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of Agenda: The following amendments to the agenda were proposed:  
Add Viking Terrace and Sidewalk Clearing under old business. Praver moved that the agenda be approved with these amendments. Davison seconded. Motion carried.
- IV. Guest: None.
- V. Approval of Minutes: Praver moved, Dirks seconded approval of minutes as amended. Motion carried.
- V. Old Business.
  - A. Viking Terrace:
    1. The Rice County Dispute Resolution Program (RCDRP) has proposed to a representative of the Viking residents concerned that they begin with a pre-mediation meeting to propose ground rules. RCDRP has not received a reply from the resident, and therefore has not proceeded with contacting either of the other parties.
    2. Davison asked if the Commission still wants him to proceed with the proposed arrangements for state agencies to make a presentation about rights and responsibilities in manufactured home parks. Because the mediation is pending, he has not proceeded. Commissioners affirmed his decision not to proceed until the outcome of the mediation is known.
  - B. Sidewalk Clearing: The clearing of sidewalks of snow was discussed, especially as a matter of access for people with disabilities. Problem areas were identified and will be shared by Olsen with appropriate staff. Praver, who is preparing the monthly report to council, will include this concern as will Pownell in her council report.
- VII. Committee Reports
  - A. Hate Crimes Response and Prevention Committee—Schlosser shared information from an article he read in the Star Trib which identified MN as number eight in a ranking of the states by the number of hate crimes reported.
  - B. Martin Luther King Planning Committee

1. Financial accounting of the event: \$456.06 carried over from 2009, we received \$350 in donations for a total budget of \$806.06. The following expenses were approved by the commission: \$379.20 to the *Northfield News* for advertising, \$37.28 to Gold Country Engravers for plaques, \$95 honorarium to each—Northfield Youth Choirs and the Aztec Dancers, \$75 honorarium to each—speaker King and interpreter Christofaro and \$46 to the School District for facility use. Total expenses \$802.48 leaving a balance of \$3.58.

2. Kleber called Paul Hager of NTV about having the event video recorded. Hager had not committed to video recording the event and did not do so. Kleber's wife recorded it on an analogue tape. Kleber will ask Hager if he is able to transfer that to a digital format for use on NTV.

C. Census Marketing

1. Several articles promoting the Census have been published in the *Northfield News*, the first having been submitted by Schlosser, and the others by the *News*.

2. Pownell brought forth ideas from the League of MN Cities to promote the Census:

a) City Council members wear Census tee-shirts to all council meetings until the Census reporting period is past.

b) PSAs promoting the Census to be played on the tvs prior to Council meetings.

3. An accounting of the Marketing presentations that have been done or are on the schedule was presented by Evans-de-Carpio.

D. Public Education Committee—No report.

VI. New Business

A. Commission Appointments: Commissioners reviewed applications to the Commission and then engaged in a discussion of short and long-range planning and goals. Following this and discussion of the implications on having new commissioners appointed before our planning sessions can be held, Davison moved and Schlosser seconded that the mayor be informed that the Commission recommends appointments of the two current applicants. Motion carried. Kleber will email the mayor the Commission's recommendation.

VIII. Commissioners' Reports

A. Richard Kleber—No report.

B. Judy Dirks

1. Shared information with the Commission about a movie called *Papers* that will air at Carleton's Language and Dining Center, room 104 on Feb. 25 at 6:30. It is free and open to the public. The movie is about undocumented youth's access to higher education.

2. Local Attorney John Fossum is able to represent victims of Human Rights violations at the International Criminal Court at the Hague.

3. Noted that President Obama is now scheduled to meet with the Dalai Lama on Feb. 18.

C. Bonnie Praver—No report.

- D. D D Davison
    - 1. Noted *Northfield News* editorial by Suzanne Rook about a movie about a boy with Cerebral Palsy and her experience with her own relative.
    - 2. Shared pamphlets he obtained at Human Rights Day about Home Line Tenant services.
  - E. David Schlosser
    - 1. Shared concern about state budget cuts and the resulting program cuts. Testified to the importance of the programs based on his experience as the brother of two siblings with cognitive disabilities.
  - F. Stephen Swanson—Excused.
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- IX. Liaison’s Report
    - A. Rhonda Pownell—No report.
    - A. Marj Evans-de-Carpio—No report.
    - B. Bill Olsen
      - 1. Shared informational handouts from Human Rights Day.
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- X. Schlosser moved and Davison seconded adjournment at 9:08. Motion carried.
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- XI. Next Meeting
    - A. The next meeting of the HRC will be on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Second Floor Training Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marj Evans-de-Carpio