

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Kleber, Judy Dirks, Bonnie Prawer, DD Davison

MEMBERS EXCUSED: David Schlosser

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stephen Swanson

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

- I. Call to order by Dick Kleber at 7:05.
- II. Approval of Agenda: Amendments made “St. Olaf Diversity Group” is “St. Olaf Human Rights Group”. This group will be invited to attend the April meeting. April meeting date is the 8th, not the 15th. Prawer moved, Davison seconded approval as amended. Motion carried.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Prawer moved, Davison seconded approval of minutes as amended. Motion carried.
- IV. Old Business.
 - A. *Offense Taken* video—in April of 2009 Gary Lewis of the School District was going to share the video with the Curriculum Committee. Nothing has been heard since. Evans-de-Carpio will follow up with Lewis.
 - B. Mediation of Viking parking issue: Rice County Dispute Resolution Program has not heard back from representative of Viking residents.
 - C. Charter Commission Request—as discussed in January, the request the Charter Commission made of the HRC is a matter for the Council to decide, not the Commission. However, Peter Dahlen of the Charter Commission has informed Kleber that the Charter Commission is talking with the mayor about asking the Human Rights Commission four questions.
- V. New Business
 - A. Training for Boards and Commissions—Kleber will go and will invite Schlosser and the new commissioner, if appointed.
 - B. St. Olaf Board of Regents Student Committee (BORSC) put up posters asking “What does diversity mean to you?” and “What can St. Olaf do to increase diversity?” Responses written on the posters were upsetting due to racist nature of some. Two meetings followed; more follow-up is planned. Olsen will check with Public Safety to find out if they have a report. Kleber will talk to the Dean of Students to find out if they know who wrote the comments or any other information.
- VI. Committee Reports
 - A. Census Marketing Update:
 1. Articles are being sent to *The Northfield News* to promote replying to the Census. Signatories include the members of the Task Force.
 2. Dirks has spoken with St. Olaf groups about the Census.

3. Copies of winning posters from Carleton poster contest were shown.
 4. It looks as if Northfield will not have a Questionnaire Assistance Center, but we will have a Be Counted Site—location not yet certain.
 5. Kleber talked with State Demographer about placing an ad on WCCO radio, but learned that the cost is prohibitive.
 6. The March edition of the *City Commons* will include a Census promotion article, which we supplied.
 7. We will be allowed to have a display table at the parent teacher conferences at Greenvale. Kleber and Davison volunteered to staff the tables for much of the time. Evans-de-Carpio will send out an announcement of the volunteer opportunity to the partners on the task force.
 8. Commissioners signed up to hang posters around town. Evans-de-Carpio will send a request to partners to also hang posters in additional locations.
 9. Olsen will check with TJ Heinrich of Public Works about getting banners hung in various locations around town, including Ames Park, on Hwy 3 by Jefferson Pkwy, Lashbrook Park and at the Welcome to Northfield signs.
 10. Kleber will be meeting with the St. Olaf Student Senate representative for off-campus students.
 11. Evans-de-Carpio will contact the Partnership Specialist about obtaining fliers to send home in school children's backpacks. If they can supply them, Davison offered to deliver to Greenvale Park, Praver and Olsen offered to deliver where needed. Pownell offered to count them out.
- B. Hate Crimes Response and Prevention Committee—No report.
- C. Martin Luther King Planning Committee
1. Bills have all been paid.
 2. Paul Hager said he could convert the analogue video that Kleber's wife made of the event to digital for broadcasting on NTV.
- D. Public Education Committee—No report.

VII. Commissioners' Reports

- A. Richard Kleber—No report.
- B. Judy Dirks
1. Dirks attended the "Achieving the Dream" immigration conference at St. Olaf.
 2. Dirks handed out brochures from John Fossum about representation for victims of war crimes seeking reparations at the International Criminal Court.
- C. Bonnie Praver—No report.
- D. D D Davison
1. Davison shared information about a change in eligibility for Medicare Part D, which will make it available to more people.
- E. David Schlosser—Excused.
- F. Stephen Swanson—Absent.

VIII. Liaison's Report

A. Rhonda Pownell—No report.

A. Marj Evans-de-Carpio

1. Evans-de-Carpio has inquired, and it looks like the Commission can expect to continue to meet in the Second Floor Training Room through September.

B. Bill Olsen—No report.

IX. Miscellaneous

A. Davison will send the report to City Council for this month.

X. Meeting adjourned at 9:01.

XI. Next Meeting

A. The next meeting of the HRC will be on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Training Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marj Evans-de-Carpio