

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
February 22, 2010**

APPROVED  
MINUTES

Present: Jillayne Beall, Bakhtawar Chaudhary, Sueling Chan Schardin,  
Mary Rice Manzke, Sean Roy, Stan McFall, Don Peterson, Sapna Swaroop

Absent: Dawn Steigauf

Staff: Tracy Smith, Administrative Coordinator, Human Services Division  
Sandra Lee, Office Support Specialist, Human Services Division

Guests: Tony LookingElk

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CALL TO ORDER

D. Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S. McFall, S/J. Beall, unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the January 25, 2010 meeting with a correction of a typographical error.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

M/S. Roy, S/S. McFall carried to accept the Agenda with the following addition under Item #3.1 Leadership, Re-cap Youth Leadership Retreat video.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Newly appointed Commissioners Mary Rice Manzke and Sapna Swaroop read and signed the Oaths of Office for terms expiring December 31, 2010.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Taste of Japan

T. Smith announced the Taste of Japan event is Saturday, February 27, 2010 from 6-10 p.m. at the Hilton Minneapolis/Bloomington (494/France). To attend, reserve by tomorrow through S. Lee.

- Spanish translated  
Mediation Brochure

T. Smith directed Commissioners to the Mediation brochure that has been translated into Spanish.

PROGRAM

- Tony LookingElk, Otto Bremer Foundation & former Minneapolis Civil Rights Commissioner

Tony LookingElk introduced himself as a member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa, who was born and raised in Minneapolis. His father was from the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. As an involved member of the American Indian community, he was keenly aware of the misinterpretations, perceptions, and limitations inhibiting people to access to medical care, housing, etc. He found being a Minneapolis Civil Rights Commissioner challenging in these areas because the investigations were slow and people were in need of resources (i.e., housing) immediately, not in 120 days. The Commission attempted systemic changes, taking the Civil Rights Commission out of downtown City Hall and

literally taking it to the streets to ask people to tell their stories. There was a lack of trust in the system by those it was intended to serve. Politics played a major part in Mr. LookingElk’s decision to leave the Commission and pursue a better understanding of how and why philanthropy, in particular responsive philanthropy, works. Mr. LookingElk currently works for Otto Bremer Foundation. The Foundation serves people in the states of North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Otto Bremer created the foundation in 1944 as a trust instrument. Decisions were initially made by three people Otto Bremer selected as trustees, giving these three individuals the power to appoint their successors. The profits of the Bremer Banks go directly to the foundation. They believe that communities hold their own solutions; therefore, the Foundation seeks out community voices and looks at community benefit when providing grants. In 2008, the Foundation made the decision to put together a Bremer emergency fund with a focus on poverty and the definition of poverty from an individual community’s perspective. Some communities would view poverty in an economic sense (i.e., employment) , others in a social context (i.e., isolation, depression).

Additional information can be found at the Otto Bremer Foundation’s website [www.ottobremer.org](http://www.ottobremer.org).

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- 2010 Work Plan
  - Public Relations
    - 2010 Diversity Day

B. Chaudhary reported there are no new updates for Diversity Day. T. Smith stated the t-shirt designs are being delivered from each high school this week. These designs will be provided to Commissioners in the March HRC packets. The Commission will select a design at the March 15, 2010 meeting.

- Equality
  - Cultural Resource Fair for Latinos
    - Volunteers

B. Chaudhary stated there are 37 exhibitors registered thus far for the March 6<sup>th</sup> Latino Resource Fair at Civic Plaza from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. There will be concessions, music, various exhibitors and the HRC booth. The next committee meeting is Wednesday, 2/24. T. Smith stated the exhibitors are an expansive group. Two workshops will be offered focused on higher education (Hennepin Technical College & Normandale Community College) and on applying for employment skills (i.e., how to fill out basic applications). There will be tours of city hall to familiarize residents with obtaining fence permits, animal licenses, etc., including a tour of the police department. A variety of booths will be at the event: Hennepin County’s Multicultural Services, City of Bloomington divisions, VEAP, Cornerstone, Red Cross Spanish speaking programs, CAPSH, CLUES, and the Mexican Consulate to name a few. Bloomington Public Health nurses will be onsite to do a H1N1 clinic. Volunteers for the HRC booth are D. Peterson (10 am – 1 pm), M. Rice Manzke (11 am -1 pm), and B. Chaudhary (10-11 am). Additionally, B. Chaudhary will be in attendance the entire event as a committee member volunteer.

- Somalis in MN Workshop

B. Chaudhary reported no new updates as the last meeting for the Somalis in Minnesota Workshop had been canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

- Cultural Competence
  - Youth Dialogue  
“RACE: The Power of An Illusion”  
T. Smith stated the third session of the 4-part series “RACE: The Power of An Illusion” will be offered to the 60 high schools students who participated in the first two sessions on March 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Re-Cap Black History Month event  
J. Beall, B. Chaudhary, D. Peterson, and S. Schardin attended the HRC sponsored presentation of Reggie Edwards at Normandale Community College for Black History Month. Mr. Edwards presented an enormous amount of history within two hours, using his family history and experiences to connect the past with the present.
  - Remembrance March  
Commissioners D. Peterson, S. McFall, and S. Schardin marched from the Bloomington Ice Gardens to Normandale Community College as part of the Black History Month Remembrance March on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Photographs taken at the event were shown to Commissioners. There were approximately 75 students from Bloomington High Schools who participated in the march alongside Mayor Winstead, Dr. Joe Opatz, Normandale College President, and HRC Commissioners. Following the march was a presentation in the Lorenz Fine Arts Auditorium with special music provided by Patricia Lacy-Aiken with the *Sounds of Blackness*.
  
- Leadership
  - Youth Leadership Retreat Video  
A ten-minute video of the January 9, 2010 Human Rights Commission Youth Leadership Retreat with Tou Ger Xiong was viewed by Commissioners. This video will be played on Bloomington Cable 14 and available on the City’s website.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Global Celebration
  - Volunteer(s)  
Global Celebration will be held on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at Civic Plaza in conjunction with the Farmer’s Market. Volunteers are needed for the planning committee. Meetings typically are scheduled at 3 p.m. to accommodate students and occur at least once a month, more frequently as the event draws near. B. Chaudhary expressed interest in being on the planning committee.
  
- Movement Mosaic classes  
T. Smith directed Commissioners to the Continental Ballet Company *Movement Mosaic* flyer included in the packets that details classes presented on dances from around the world.

#### ADJOURNMENT

M/S. Schardin, S/J. Beall unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.