

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
March 15, 2010**

APPROVED
MINUTES

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

Absent: Sapna Swaroop

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

Guests: Jay Ludwig (Gideon Pond)

CALL TO ORDER

D. Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/J. Beall, S/B. Chaudhary unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the February 22, 2010 meeting as presented.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

M/D. Steigauf, S/M. Rice-Manzke carried to accept the Agenda as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mayor's Volunteer Recognition Breakfast

T. Smith announced Commissioners will be receiving an invitation to attend the Mayor's Volunteer Recognition Breakfast on Saturday, April 17, 2010, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

- Kite Day

T. Smith announced Kite Day, in celebration of Children's Day, will be held on Saturday May 1, 2010 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Valley View Playfield, rain or shine.

PROGRAM

- Jay Ludwig, Pond Dakota Heritage Society

D. Peterson welcomed Gideon Pond, one of the founders of Bloomington. Gideon commented that the McLeod meeting room is named in honor of Martin McLeod, the owner of the land where the first Oak Grove Church was built, which is now where the Bloomington cemetery is located. The Pond Dakota home is nestled in Pond Dakota Mission Park located off of 104th & Nicollet Avenue in Bloomington.

- In 1834, Gideon Pond was called to preach the gospel and arrived in Minnesota with his brother Samuel. In Minnesota they discovered a people that had not been contaminated by the white man's whiskey, a fierce people called the Dakota. After landing at Ft. Snelling via the Mississippi River, the Pond brothers taught the European method of farming to the Dakota in the

Lake Calhoun area. Chief Cloudman was the first Dakota Chief interested in learning the method of using a plow and oxen to plant corn. Dakota women traditionally planted gardens while Dakota men hunted game. Chief Cloudman could see that the game in the area had been chased away and their gardens did not produce enough to live on throughout the winter. The women were not interested in plowing nor were the men interested in doing women's work (farming). During 1839, the Dakota people were at war with the Ojibwe tribe that were coming south from Canada. Chief Cloudman moved his village south to the Minnesota river valley next to other Dakota villages.

- In 1843, Samuel and Gideon Pond followed Chief Cloudman south and built their first log cabin and mission house. In 1847 Samuel Pond moved to the Shakopee area to build a new mission. In 1849, this area became the Minnesota Territory and the Minnesota legislature was organized. Henry Sibley requested Gideon Pond to be a representative; however, Gideon did not feel qualified for the position nor have an interest. Unfortunately Gideon's decline letter arrived after he had already been appointed as one of the two representatives for the Bloomington area. On September 3, 1849, Gideon Pond, along with Bloomington area representative Alexis Bailey, met with 11 other representatives in St. Paul. Gideon attempted to pass civil rights legislation. Bill #11 prescribed the qualifications of voters and for holding office. A first attempt of line one of the bill decreed that only 21 year old white males should have the right to vote. A third attempt amended the bill by striking out the word "white". Another amendment attempt had wording that all free male colored persons over 21 years of age. All amendment attempts failed and the bill passed with the original language. This bill was brought up again a few days later. It was sent to committee where members were charged to attempt a compromise. In the end, Bill #11 was adopted with language that all persons of a mixture of white and Indian blood and who have adopted the habits and customs of civilized men shall have the right to vote, etc. At this time, civilized men had a different meaning than today. It meant that Dakota or Ojibwe would adopt farming and convert to Christianity. Civilization and Christianization were synonymous at the time.
- 1851 was the year that the Dakota signed treaties with the U.S. government, deeding 2 million acres of land to the government. Gideon had to make the difficult decision to stay or go west with the Dakota. After spending 19 years with the Dakota people and learning the spoken Dakota language, Gideon felt the reservations were bad ideas and that previous government treaties had not been realized. Therefore, Gideon and his brother Samuel stayed in this area. Gideon's mission work was through Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, whereas his brother settled in Shakopee. There was no written form of the language. In 1834 while constructing a cabin in the Lake Calhoun area, the brothers also constructed a Dakota alphabet (phonetically) replete with dictionary, grammar books, and a hymnal. After 40 years the entire bible was written in the Dakota language. Many names in our state are derived from the Dakota language (i.e., Winona, Chaska). In 1852, Gideon Pond built the preemption house, which allowed him the right to purchase 160 acres. In 1853, his wife Sarah became ill and died. They had 7 children,

with the youngest being 4 years of age. In 1854 while traveling in Ohio, Gideon was reacquainted with his soon to be second wife, Agnes, who had 3 children of her own. After marriage, Gideon and Sarah had 6 more children. In 1856, the brick house was built and an addition to the preemption house.

Today, the City of Bloomington has recreated the house as it originally stood. Gideon stated he is not sure at what point his mind was made up concerning slavery, but both his wives, Sarah and Agnes, came from abolitionist southern Ohio people. Abolitionists would position their homes in such a way that once slaves would cross the Ohio river they could go from house to house until they could catch a train. Gideon read a poem he had written on slavery.

- 1862 Pond Dakota War: Refusing to go west with the Dakota people and knowing that the annuity system set up had undermined the motivation of Dakota men, especially in the upcoming generation, since there was no need to hunt. The Dakota land had not been sold, it had been taken. So it was not a surprise to Gideon when war erupted. As a result of this war, approximately 400 Dakota men were taken into captivity at Mankato and over half of the Dakota people fled state. The 400 Dakota men were sentenced to death. It was through the efforts of missionaries (Bishop Whipple and Thomas Williamson) who pleaded for the men's lives to President Lincoln that the number executed by hanging on December 26, 1862 numbered 38. Some of those incarcerated were Christian men who began to speak to their fellow Dakota men. A revival broke out in the prison and by January of 1863 missionaries were requested to come to the prison to perform baptisms. On February 1, 1863, nearly 300 Dakota men were baptized. Each man was carefully examined, personally and verbally, to ensure sincere conversions. Many of these men went on to become preachers. With families being separated between Mankato and Ft. Snelling, the Dakota wanted to learn how to read and write their language.
- 1863: The Dakota were banished from the State of Minnesota by federal law.

The Pond Dakota Heritage Society promotes the reconciliation between Dakota and non-Dakota peoples. 2012 will be the 150th anniversary of the War of 1862. A resolution seeking Congress to repeal the banishment of Dakota Indians from Minnesota was passed unanimously by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in 2009. For more information on the Pond Dakota Heritage Society, visit www.bloomingtonhistoricalsociety.org

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- 2010 Work Plan
 - Public Relations
 - 2010 Diversity Day
 - Revised Timeline

The meeting minutes from the Kennedy 3/1 and Jefferson 2/24/10 and 3/10 Diversity meetings are enclosed in the packets and handouts. Also included is a revised Timeline for Diversity & Peace Day activities. Revisions were made to the City Council and School Board dates and to the date Kennedy will have their diversity booths (5/4). B. Chaudhary highlighted a few of the week-long activities being held at Kennedy (Filipino bracelet fundraiser, soccer and badminton sports tournaments, and Cinco de Mayo).

- Volunteers

Volunteers for the Human Rights booth on 5/4 at Kennedy are: D. Steigauf 11:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., M. Rice-Manzke 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., J. Beall 12:45 – 2:20

“RACE: The Power of
An Illusion

will be presented on March 24th from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. to 60 pre-selected high school students from Kennedy and Jefferson. The conclusion, part 4, will be on Wednesday, April 28th.

NEW BUSINESS

- Public Relations
 - B30 Video

T. Smith stated the Youth Leadership video presented at the February HRC meeting was put together by B30, Bloomington’s Public Access TV. B30 does a snap shot of organizations, groups, and events in the community. They would like to do a human rights piece focused on youth involvement and leadership. An HRC Commissioner would need to be on the committee, possibly interview of Commissioners (past and present), or look through historical photographs. This video would be an addition to the 2010 Work Plan. M/S. Schardin, S/J. Beall unanimously carried to add the B30 video to the 2010 Work Plan. J. Beall and B. Chaudhary volunteered to be on the committee.

- Bloomington Egg Hunt
& Family Fun Walk
 - Booth Volunteers

The Egg Hunt and Family Fun Walk sponsored by the City of Bloomington and the Bloomington Optimists Club will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2010 from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. at Normandale Lake Bandshell. The Optimists and City of Bloomington will have informational booths at the event and would like the HRC to be involved. M/S. McFall, S/M. Rice Manzke unanimously carried to have the HRC booth at the Egg Hunt and Family Fun Walk on April 3, 2010. B. Chaudhary and D. Peterson volunteered to work the booth.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S. Roy, S/D. Steigauf unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m.