

Duluth Human Rights Commission
Minutes
May 12, 2010 • 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Duluth City Hall, Room 400

Commissioners Present:

Robert Kaner, Cynthia Strange, Kim Riordan, Andrew Knox, Jennifer Turner, Cruz Mendoza, Scott Yeazle, Brian Thorbjornsen, Amy Myska, Rebecca Hinds (late)

Excused: Jim Janousek

Others Present: Bob Grytdahl, John Beyer (late), Sarah Chambers

Commission Chair Kim Riordan announced her resignation as Chair, but clarified that she will remain as a participating and contributing Commissioner. Commissioners accepted the resignation, and Vice Chair Scott Yeazle was identified to chair the meeting. Commission will nominate and elect officers at the next meeting, scheduled for June 9, 2010 at 5:00pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Brian Thorbjornsen made to motion to accept the 4/14/10 minutes as presented. Cruz Mendoza seconded. Passed 9-0.

Meeting Protocol & Guidelines:

1. Andrew Knox reported that the Governance Committee met, and is recommending to the Commission that in the interest of maintaining respectful and professional dialog between the Commissioners, that the Commission adhere to Roberts Rules of Order and appoint a Parliamentarian to assure accurate process and order. Bob Grytdahl noted that Roberts Rules of Order are already referred to in the Bylaws, but there is no reference to a Parliamentarian. Commissioners discussed appointing Bob Grytdahl as the Parliamentarian, due to his familiarity with Roberts Rules of Order. *Motion made by Andrew Knox to appoint Bob Grytdahl as Parliamentarian, seconded by Kim Riordan. Motion passes 9-0.*
2. Cruz Mendoza advised that the Commission discuss the Ordinance that gives the Commission power to act, in order to clarify the Commission's role with the new Commissioners. *Motion made by Andrew Knox to add a discussion of the ordinance to next month's agenda. Seconded by Kim Riordan. Motion passes 9-0.*

Action Items:

1. Cruz Mendoza requested clarification on how Commissioners are expected to communicate with one another in between meetings, and added that to be responsive to community issues, the Commission may need to act before its next scheduled meeting. Cruz Mendoza referred to the new legislation that was signed into law in Arizona. Following several suggestions and discussion by Commissioners, Bob Grytdahl reported that in order to take immediate action

on an issue, a Special Meeting would need to be called by the Chair.

2. *Motion made by Brian Thorbjornsen to recommend that the Duluth City Council and Duluth Mayor work to adopt a resolution that restricts all official travel and business with the State of Arizona until Arizona repeals the law known as SB 1070. Seconded by Kim Riordan.* Commissioners discussed the law's effect, which allows law enforcement broad powers to stop and detain anyone suspected of being in the country illegally. Discussion also included how to appropriately and effectively present this to the City Council, Mayor, and the public. Agreement was established with Scott Yeazole and Robert Kaner offering to jointly prepare letters to the City Council President, Mayor, and Duluth News Tribune. *Motion passes 9-0.*
3. In reference to the current concerns in the community regarding the Facebook incident at UMD, guest Sarah Chambers requested clarification on how the Commission responds to community member issues, i.e. does a Commissioner need to be invited, or can an individual approach the Commission? Bob Grytdahl indicated that in the past, the Hate Crimes Response Team had a role in this, but that this team is no longer functioning. Commissioners discussed making outreach to the Anti Racism Coalition, which had been a part of the Hate Crimes Response Team in the past, and a *motion was made by Cruz Mendoza to contact the Anti Racism Coalition and request to reinstate the Hate Crimes Response Team. Seconded by Kim Riordan. Motion passes 9-0.*

Non Action Items:

1. Bob Grytdahl reminded Commissioners of an educational session on communication in the workplace called "Learn Words that Work at Work", being held on Friday, May 14, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. in City Hall Room 303.
2. Bob Grytdahl distributed a flyer from the Duluth Task Force for Improved Community Police Accountability, which announces community forums for building trust between the community and the police. Locations, dates, and times follow:
May 15, 6-8pm at the Good Fellowship Club
May 16, 6-8pm at the Holy Family Catholic Church
May 18, 6-8pm at the Central Hillside Community Center
May 19, 6-8pm at the Portman Community Center
May 20, 6-8pm at the Peace Church
3. Bob Grytdahl distributed a flyer on a webinar being sponsored by the National League of Cities, Institute for Youth Education and Families, and Annie E. Casey Foundation called "How Municipal Leaders Can Engage Parents in Dropout Prevention", which will occur on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 3:00pm Eastern Time.
4. Andrew Knox reported that Matt Entenza, a candidate for Governor of Minnesota, will be speaking on "Race, Education, and the Economy" on Monday, May 17 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Whole Foods Co-op in Duluth.

Reports from Subcommittees:

1. Andrew Knox identified need for clarification on who convenes each of the subcommittees. Kim Riordan indicated that she would bring a list of the committees and who convenes each of them at our next meeting.

Adjourn:

Motion made by Robert Kaner to adjourn; seconded by Brian Thorbjornsen. Motion passes 10-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Thorbjornsen

BT:jm