

<u>A</u> Benjamin Briggs	<u>P</u> Monica Roth Day	<u>P</u> Jane Maddy	<u>P</u> John Beyer -Ex-Officio
<u>P</u> Maria Cuzzo	<u>A</u> John Heiner	<u>A</u> Myrna Raisanen	<u>P</u> Bob Grytdahl - Staff
<u>P</u> Jon Dacken	<u>A</u> Tamara Jones	<u>P</u> Terry Teich	
<u>P</u> Maria Danz		<u>P</u> Toni Thorstad	

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
<p>Introduction of new member Review of minutes from 05/14/08</p> <p>Correspondence</p>	<p>Was not present so will do when he comes to a meeting. No corrections or additions noted.</p> <p>A. Duluth American Indian Commission B. Teaching Tolerance Newsletter C. Housing Redevelopment Authority - HOPE VI newsletter D. Aurora Borealis E. Southern Poverty Law Center F. Pfund grant application process changes G. Mentor Duluth News I. MN Dept. Of Human Rights - Human Rights Day announcement J. St. Louis County Social Services - Conference confirmation</p>	<p><i>Minutes filed.</i></p> <p>Post 05/14/08 minutes on Web.</p>	<p>Julie Mockler</p>
<p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</p>	<p>4. <u>Committee Reports</u> A. <u>Nominating Committee</u> – Tabled until there are more new members B. <u>Police Liaison</u> – On March 30, 2008, there was an incident whereby a fight in the downtown area stemmed from racial comments. Later, the person was charged with a higher count of assault as a result of this. (See 626.845, Subd. 4)</p> <p>5. <u>Festivals</u> A. <u>Juneteenth</u> – Is Saturday, June 21. Community group has not been well organized. If we have a table, we will need to have volunteers to work at it. (I.e. set up booth, hand out information). It seems that any further discussion is moot at this point since closing the</p>	<p>Serve on a Nominating Committee</p> <p>Contact Portia Johnson regarding plans for Juneteenth.</p>	<p>Maria Cuzzo Jon Dacken</p>

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	Human Rights Office has been announced. This could change the focus of the Commission as well as hamper any other efforts the Commission might plan.	<i>Monica Day Roth made the motion with Maria Cuzzo seconding to postpone any further discussion of unfinished business until we have talked through the Human Rights Office issue. Motion approved.</i>	
Announced closing of the Human Rights Office	<p>Chair asked the Human Rights Officer to bring factual information about the office so that members would have current statistics when discussing the Office in the community. Officer was asked not to lobby the City Council, etc. There was a feeling that if closing the office was a genuine concern that the public would speak out. Discussion ensued about how the Commission functioned before the opening of the Human Rights Office. Commission work educating the public. Public perception in Duluth needs to change radically before there can be any change. We would be hampered because any activities that the Commission has undertaken have been paid for by the office. The Commission has no operating budget. It appears that many in the community think that the Human Rights Office is rather large instead of 2 2/5 people. Getting the office up and running was no small task. The concept was worked on for about 10 years and much community input was received. With the incoming HUD monies, there isn't a big budget problem for another two years. Office is still in the capacity building stage and has just begun to receive cases from HUD. City could use CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds to support a human rights office. There still may be some wiggle room to negotiate. The Mayor has some mis-information. He thought the State was funding an office in St. Cloud, which is not, and had thought to try to get the same status here.</p> <p>Also, the City has had an EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) Officer since the 1980's. Who would take on those duties? Having an EEO Officer has allowed the City to receive federal grants. The EEO Officer is written into the City Charter and cannot be removed unless the Mayor and the City</p>		

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<p>Announced closing of the Human Rights Office, cont.</p>	<p>Council agree to do so.</p> <p>Discussed that the people in the community who suffer from discrimination may not necessarily speak out. They are tired of having to do so. Nothing seems to change here. So far the cycle of poverty has not been broken for them. These are the people for whom the office works. It was noted that human rights issues are unpopular everywhere, not just in Duluth. It was stated that no one seems to see the racism that occurs here and it is incredible. Change needs to come from within and so far that has not happened. The white community needs to change. It appears that of the total 835 employees, that the 2 2/5 employees of the Human Rights Office are more highly scrutinized.</p> <p>It was suggested that practical data be produced as well. Is it worth X amount of dollars in the long run not to continue? Closing the office would effectively alienate many in the community and deemed not important enough by them.</p> <p>Conclusion reached was that the issue was more complex than just the \$40,000 to \$60,000 budget savings.</p> <p>Chair was supposed to have meeting with Mayor yesterday but it was postponed until June 18. Unsure of the time. Much discussion took place on whether or not this meeting should still take place and if so, what the talking points should be. Some of these should be 1) asking for a budget, and 2) administrative support. Budget is important to help us do what we are supposed to do by helping us purchase materials to help educate the public and to pay for training, etc. We need to ask what happens to the Ordinance? What happens to the EEO functions? We need to hold the City accountable for these. Need to be in contact with the media as well as County Commissioners. Additional volunteers requested to go to meeting with Chair.</p>	<p>Email Commission regarding the time of the June 18 meeting with the Mayor.</p> <p>After receiving info regarding the time of the meeting with Mayor, clear calendar and plan to attend this meeting.</p> <p><i>Jon Dacken made the motion to authorize the creation of a talking piece regarding the Commission and Human Rights Office. Toni Thorstad seconded. Motion approved.</i></p> <p>Type up talking piece and mail to office.</p> <p>Send talking piece to all Commissioners.</p>	<p>Jane Maddy</p> <p>Any interested Commissioner</p> <p>Maria Cuzzo</p> <p>Julie Mockler</p>

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Announced closing of the Human Rights Office, cont.		Contact City Councilor and/or Commissioner from your voting district within the next week.	All Commissioners
Other	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Appreciation certificate awarded</u> – Appreciation certification for service was presented to former member Maria Krynicky.</li> <li>2. <u>League of Minnesota Human Rights Commission award</u> – Topic was raised. Possible nomination discussed. Most felt that we should table until next month as there as so much discussion this evening and everyone is tired.</li> <li>3. <u>Grant application</u> – Has been completed to seek funds for a Commission retreat for strategic planning, and recruitment and retention. Needs to be sent in.</li> </ol>	<p>Add League of Minnesota Human Rights Commission award to July agenda.</p> <p><i>Maria Cuzzo made the motion to approve the proposed grant application for strategic planning. Jon Dacken seconded. Motion carried.</i></p> <p>FAX grant application into Minnesota Department of Human Rights.</p>	<p>Jane Maddy</p> <p>Julie Mockler</p>
Next meeting: <b>Wednesday, July 9, 2008 @ 6:00 p.m.</b>			

