

Duluth Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2011

Commissioners Present: Jennifer Barry, Brian Thorbjørnsen, Scot Bol, Cynthia Strange, Michele Naar-Obed, Allegra Henderson, Scott Yeazle, Rebecca Domagala, Margie Nelson, Em Westerlund, Sheryl Boman-Schneider.

Commissioners Absent: Colleen Belk, Robert Kaner, and Cruz Mendoza,

Others Present: Robin Roeser, Deputy Chief of Police, Bob Grytdahl, Human Rights Officer, Lyn Peg, Erin O'Daniel, Rachael Kilgore, Kassie Helgerson.

Meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved with no changes.

Speakers and discussions:

1. Rachael Kilgore discussed issues in the GLDT community of not having rights for marriage, medical and custody issues and decisions. Rachael talked about the need to have allies who will help support the GLBT community. Talked about the concern that there may be a constitutional amendment to make lesbian/gay marriage illegal, and concern about bullying in Duluth schools. State Campaign is going on. Rainbow Health Initiative and HOT DISH Militia are involved. There is a GLBT youth support group at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

Discussion about bringing organizations together to do something like the "It Gets Better Campaign" that the Safe Schools Task Force was doing.

Brian brought up doing something similar on marriage rights that commission did with immigrants, asking City Council to not support anti-marriage legislation

There will be a five member committee from HRC that will work on this. Right now Em, Margie, Scot, and Scott have agreed to be on the committee.

2. YWCA - Lyn Peg, Erin O'Daniel came to talk about the UNFAIR CAMPAIGN social marketing campaign that will be launched in October 2011 which will include posters, billboards and bus plackerts. They are looking for organizations to help support the campaign. To be a sponsor, the organization's name would be on information, would help facilitate community discussions and financial support if possible

Brian Thorbjørnsen made motion to support the UNFAIR CAMPAIGN. Rebecca Domagala seconded. Passed unanimously. Scot asked that we be updated with information. Robin thought

that Duluth Police Department would be open to training on how to react in situations that may arise. Michele mentioned having a kick off movie to bring out campaign. Duluth Q-25-30 years old, ask questions, do video on it.

Business

1. Elections

Elections were held for officers.

Officers for 2011-2012 are:

Chairperson - Scott Yeazle

Vice Chairperson - Margie Nelson

Secretary-co secretaries - Em Westerlund, Sheryl Boman-Schneider

New officers were unanimously elected.

2. Community Art Mural Project - Scott Yeazle brought draft of letter supporting Unity In Community Art Mural Project at Cascade Park. It was halted because of neighbor complaints. Neighbors thought it was graffiti. NHS and Central Hillside Community responsible for project. Sheryl Boman-Schneider brought motion to support the project. Scot Bol and Michele seconded. Motion passed.

Scott Yeazle will work on dates for commission to meet to do strategic plan.

3. Education Equity - Scot Bol announced that there is an Education Equity Gathering at Lake Superior College on Friday, August 19th at 5:00 p.m. He brought information and sign up sheet.
4. Topics for next three meetings
September - Education
October - Elections, voter ID, Scot will do.
November - Fair Housing

Report on upcoming Community Events

1. YWCA Appreciation Event at Building for Women, August 10th
2. Mayors Reception, Thursday night at Depot
3. PRIDE Fest - September 3rd at Bayfront, Sunday Parade
4. Duluth Q, What is Poverty? 30 minute documentary at Zymana, August 23rd at 7:00 p.m.
5. Equity in Education Gathering, August 19th, 5pm Lake Superior College

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sheryl Boman Schneider
Co-Secretary