

## Human Rights Commission: notes from meeting of July 9, 2014

### Attendance:

- Commissioners: Rebecca Domagala (chair), Ashley Grimm, Patti Larsen, Cruz Mendoza, Lee Stuart, Rogier Gregoire
- Staff: Bob Grytdahl
- Guests: Kathleen Spencer, Linda Riddle, Trevor Gersich, Zac Tuominen, Henry Banks, Dakotah Johnson, Reyna Crow, Robert Shineck, Anthony Hernandez

**Call to Order:** Rebecca called the meeting to order at 5:00 and passed around the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:** The June minutes were approved unanimously (Mendoza/Gregoire).

**Nominations/Election of Officers:** The Nominating Committee proposed the following slate which was approved unanimously (Gregoire/Larsen):

- Chair: Rebecca Domagala
- Vice-Chair: Cruz Mendoza
- Secretary: Lee Stuart

The officers agreed to meet with Bob Grytdahl prior to each monthly meeting to prepare the next agenda.

### Presentations:

- Henry Banks and Linda Riddle presented a resolution from The Employment Table requesting the Mayor provide the monthly contractor compliance project audits as outlined by the MN Dept. of Human Rights for hiring women and communities of color in state-funded construction projects and the reporting of women and communities of color employed on federally funded construction projects in Duluth (attached) to the City Council and Human Rights Commission. The resolution passed unanimously Cruz and Ashely
- 
- Robert Shinek and Reyna Crow presented information on racial disparity in St. Louis County and the need to have respectful dialog (in contrast to recent remarks by Commissioner Rauker). Commissioners Boyle and Jewel I had approached Ms. Crow for these conversations. Various ideas were suggested such as meetings outside of City Hall to lower barriers to participation, signing petition of intent to support treaties (<http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/declaration-of-intent>), and holding events like the Pelican Rapids International Friendship Festival to promote respect and relationships.

(Commissioner Larsen left the meeting at 5:45.)

**Homeless Bill of Rights:**

The Commission passed a resolution (Stuart/Mendoza) to insert “housing status” as a protected class covered by the City of Duluth ordinance Chapter 29C “Human Rights.” Discussion followed that the Commissioners were not clear on the path for the next step for its resolutions and recommendations.

**Meeting with Mayor Ness:**

The Commission charged Rogier Gregoire and Lee Stuart to meet with Mayor Ness on his vision for the Commission and his views on how Commission resolutions and recommendations are put forward for action (Grimm/Mendoza, passed unanimously).

**Housing information:**

Lee Stuart passed out information from the City Community Development Office and HUD regarding the services for people who are homeless in Duluth and St. Louis County. Discussion tabled until the next meeting.

**Upcoming community meetings:**

- Students for the Future recognition event: July 31, 11 a.m. at the Mayor’s reception room
- Employment Equity meeting with Mortenson (contractor for the DTA Center): July 16, 6 p.m. Central Hillside Community Center

Meeting adjourned at 7:05.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, from 5:00 – 7:00. Commissioners should call or email Bob Grytdahl ([bgrytdahl@duluthmn.gov](mailto:bgrytdahl@duluthmn.gov); 218-730-5630) if unable to attend.