

Human Rights Commission: notes from meeting of August 13, 2014

Attendance:

- Present: Commissioners Rebecca Domagala (chair), Ashley Grimm, Patti Larsen, Cruz Mendoza, Lee Stuart
- Commissioners Excused: Rogier Gregoire
- Staff: Bob Grytdahl
- Guests: Kathy Spencer, Councilor Barb Russ, Rosemary E. Hampton

Rebecca called the meeting to order at 5:00.

The minutes from the meeting of July 9th, 2014 were approved unanimously. (Larsen/Grimm)

Lee reported on the meeting she and Rogier Gregoire had with Mayor Ness. They discussed the mayor's vision for the Commission and three decisions recently made by the Commission: to support the Students for the Future, to request hiring data for government-funded projects in Duluth to learn the facts about hiring of people of color and to see opportunities for improvement, and to insert "housing status" as a protected class in the City's Human Rights Ordinance (Chapter 29C). The Mayor has high hopes and expectations from the Commission, noting it is the first time that a commission has been charged to focus on housing. With respect to the Students for the Future the Mayor was in full agreement; with respect to hiring, he commented that he did not know where those reports were filed (Bob Grytdahl has requested a data practices report) and with respect to the ordinance, he asked us to check with whether housing status was contained in the State ordinance.

Summary of follow-up discussion: Housing status is not in the State's ordinance, but it seems there is an opening both at the State (reference meeting of State Human Rights Commissioner Kevin Lindsey while in town on August 8th) and City to take this step.

Lee gave a briefing on the homeless response system in Duluth. She outlined the continuum of care from shelter through transitional and permanent supportive housing, as well as the role of public housing and the private market in the continuum. See tables at the end of these minutes. The commission recommended unanimously that a similar presentation be offered to the City Council (CM/PL). Lee and Patty will work on it.

Cruz updated the Commission on the work of the Duluth Racial Equity Group. Two groups are working on employment equity in Duluth. The "Employment Table" is an outgrowth of the Unfair Campaign and the Duluth Racial Equity Group is led by People of Color. Recent meetings of both groups have been well-attended and are continuing to move the conversation of equity in hiring out into the open in Duluth. The meetings (July 16th at Central Hillside Community Center, attended by about 60 people; July 30th, similar turn out, August 6th at Community Action on August 6th) have engaged the building trades, project managers for large projects (e.g. DTA multi-modal, Maurice's), advocacy organizations, and people looking for work (meetings have been especially targeted for people of color to attend and participate). A proposal on the table is that the Racial Equity Group form an LLC or non-profit to assist

companies with recruitment and hiring of people of color in Duluth. Several commissioners and staff stated that the employment barrier is tied to institutional racism, also marked by thinking that local extreme disparities in hiring are “normal.”

Related to this, Bob reported on discussions with William House, the Director of Educational Equity with ISD 709. He wants to make sure that the connection to the trades is being made as early as middle school and certainly high school. They are considering having a table at the Back to School Fair (backpack distribution). “Construction Tomorrow” is a Twin Cities based group that has had very successful events with the building trades at high schools. They want to do these events in Duluth.

Bob directed the commission to the CAPER that is online at the City’s Community Development website. The action plan will be drafted in December. The Community Development Committee is reviewing letters of intent from organizations applying to CDBG and ESG on August 19th from 5:30 – 7:30.

Bob suggested that the Commission keep a log of things we consider important to create our budget for next year (for example, participation in the St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference). We can present the proposed budget at the next cycle.

Community events:

- Legal Aid Services of Northeastern Minnesota: Thursday, Aug. 21, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Ordean Rotunda
- Loaves and Fishes Anniversary Block Party, Friday, August 23rd, 3 pm. (1600 block of Jefferson)
- Hillfest: Sunday, August 24th, 4th Street at 6th Avenue East; 2 – 6 p.m.
- Back to School Fair (includes backpack distribution): Tuesday, August 26th, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Unity Gym at the School District Administration Building
- Indigenous Commission Feast and Forum: Wednesday, August 27th, Trepanier Hall, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- Pride Festival: Labor Day (?)

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10th, from 5:00 – 7:00. Commissioners should call or email Bob Grytdahl (bgrytdahl@duluthmn.gov; 218-730-5630) if unable to attend.

HOUSING SPECTRUM IN DULUTH

WHERE	WHAT SERVICE?	WHO
Street (unsheltered)	Outreach, safety measures, and harm reduction	AICHO CHUM Lutheran Social Service The Salvation Army Loaves and Fishes
Shelter	Short-term, emergency shelter	CHUM (46-70) AICHO (10) Safe Haven (39) Loaves and Fishes (var.)
Transitional Housing: 358 total units	Up to 24 months Varied services	AICHO The Salvation Army Lutheran Social Service Life House Center City Housing Corp. MAC-V
Permanent (Supportive) Housing	Various supports and services offered; Can be owned by non-profit or for-profit entity; Often have mix of supported/non- supported units	AICHO Center City Housing Corp. MAC-V YWCA Shelter + Care (HRA, HDC, CHUM) Steve O'Neil Apartments (2015)
Public Housing	Housing Choice (Sec. 8) High Rise Scattered Site Seaway	Duluth HRA
Private Market	Usually market rate, no services	Variety of large and small private owners

HOUSING FUNDING SOURCES: as best as I can; it would be better if the City and County created these reports in a simple format that everyone could understand easily

HUD to State:

- State level HMIS funding: \$1.2 million
- ESG:?

Local projects funded by State ESG:

- CHUM Shelter (\$40,000 per year)

HUD to St. Louis County Continuum of Care:

- Total is \$2,651,548, roughly split 50/50 between northern and southern St. Louis County
- ?? for FHPAP (Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program)
- HMIS: \$39,280

Local projects funded by Continuum of Care:

Permanent Housing:

- AICHO: \$100,411
- CCHC
 - Memorial Park: \$37,579
 - New San Marco: \$62,968
- MAC-V: \$58,845
- YWCA: Young Mom's \$16,635
- HRA: Shelter + Care (rental assistance and admin only)
 - HDC: \$109,135
 - CHUM: \$205,216
 - Combined grant: \$242,899
- HRA/TSA/CHUM Rapid Re-housing for Families (new in 2014)
 - Rental Assistance \$134,916
 - Supportive services \$104,505
 - HRA Admin \$9,486
 - HMIS \$5,745

Transitional Housing:

- AICHO: OSHI \$53,703
- MAC-V: \$46,967
- Life House: \$19,011
- The Salvation Army: \$109,635
- Center City Housing: \$128,703
- Lutheran Social Service: \$42,466

Services Only

- MAC-V: \$25,272
- HDC:
 - Alicia's Place and New San Marco: \$69,745
 - Homeless Project: \$70,550
- Center City: \$37,925

HUD to City (CDBG / ESG):

Transitional Housing (2014 funding: CDBG/ESG)

- AICHO – 5 units (\$3,000/\$7,200)
- MAC-V – 10 units (\$15,000/\$15,000)
- The Salvation Army – 16 units for families (\$12,000/\$16,710)
- Center City Housing – 21 units for families (\$25,900/\$28,000)

Shelter Services

- CHUM – 44 singles/4 family (\$27,500/\$22,820)
- Safe Haven – 39 domestic violence (\$17,920/\$14,820)
- Life House Expressway (youth drop-in) (CDBG: \$20,000)

Housing & Stabilization Services – outcome based (not set yet): CDBG \$54,000

Rapid Re-housing and Rental Assistance – ESG \$35,737