

Duluth Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2012

Corrected Copy

Members present: Margie Nelson, Rebecca Domagala, Cindy Strange, John Phung, Chris Cherry, Chris Homan, Michelle Naar-Obed, Cruz Mendoza, Scot Bol, Robert Kaner, Em Westerlund, Heather Yun

Members absent: Sheryl Boman, Scott Yeazle

Others present: Bob Grytdahl, Robin Roeser

Meeting called to order 5:07p.m.

1. Minutes
September meeting minutes approved with corrections
2. Subcommittee reports:
 - A. Housing:
We will begin having a presence at Affordable Housing Coalition meetings.
 - B. City council relationship: N/A
 - C. Funding: N/A
 - D. American Indian Commission work group
 1. October 8 rally in support of victim of an assault by a Duluth Police officer at the detox facility
 - E. Unfair Campaign
No change in restructuring or stand on Voter ID amendment. All available information has been forwarded to the commission from the Unfair Campaign.
 - F. Public Outreach: N/A
Scot Bol and Rebecca Domagala will start conversing
 - G. Voter ID
Letter to the editor opposing Voter ID amendment was printed in the Duluth News-Tribune in early October.
3. Letter from City Attorney's Office
The letter was in regards to an inquiry about the roles and responsibilities of the Human Rights Commission. The letter states that it is in not within the purview of the Human Rights Commission to take stances on political proposals.

A motion was made by Cruz Mendoza to form a discussion group regarding the letter from the city attorney's office and the interpretations within it. Motion seconded by Rebecca Domagala. After a vote, the motion did not pass.

A motion was made by Michelle Naar-Obed for all commissioners to review the letter and

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discuss at next meeting. Heather Yun seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Margie Nelson will re-send the original letter so all commissioners can review it in its entirety for November commission meeting.

4. Other Business

A. Margie read statement about the assault of the man at the detox facility. Commissioners gave their feedback about the statement.

Robin Roeser spoke on behalf of the Duluth Police Department and explained the pending charges against the officer accused of assault, as well as the department's internal investigation.

The commission will remain in solidarity with the American Indian community and will watch the case closely as it proceeds.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Em Westerlund
Co-secretary

EM;jm