

<u>A</u> Benjamin Briggs	<u>P</u> Monica Roth Day	<u>P</u> Jane Maddy	<u>P</u> John Beyer-Ex-Officio	<u>Cruz Mendoza, Amber</u>
<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>A</u> Maria Danz	<u>A</u> Dan Kitzberger	<u>A</u> Toni Thorstad		_____

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
Review minutes from 06/11/08  Correspondence	No corrections or additions noted by those present.  A. Pfund grant B. Duluth American Indian Commission C. League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions D. Northland Gay Men's Center E. Southern Poverty Law Center F. Mentor Duluth News	<i>Minutes filed.</i> Post minutes on the Web.	Julie Mockler
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	4. Committee Reports A. Nominating Committee –	<i>Monica Roth Day made the motion to suspend this part of the agenda until after discussion of #12. Maria Cuzzo seconded. Motion passed.</i>	
NEW BUSINESS	12. <u>Meeting with Mayor Ness</u> – Those that attended felt it went well in as far as the decision already been made to keep the Office open. Resolution that was to be have presented by Sharla Gardner was moot then. However, there is concern because Office will have to find grants to cover operating expenses. There will be no General Fund support. Because the grant receives is from HUD, that would mean that only Fair Housing issues would be investigated and the Office would no longer investigate complaints received that fall under the Minnesota Department of Human Rights and State law criteria. Concern was expressed on how to keep the Commission viable. We need to determine what the Human Rights Office does. Equal Opportunity functions are going to re-assigned to other places within the City, mostly likely under Human Resources. The City views these duties as merely clerical duties not investigating complains of dis-		

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NEW BUSINESS, cont.	<p>crimination or promoting opportunities for employment for protected classes. Charter would need to be changed to take the Affirmative Action person out of it. This had been done so that the person could do the unpopular things they were called on to do and not be under the current political whims. If the City wants to pursue any federal funding, it is imperative that an Equal Opportunity Representative remain.</p> <p>City feels that a non-profit would be a better place for investigation of Human Rights complaints. Some City Councilors also feel that the Office does duplicative services because the State already investigates complaints. They feel the Office should pay rent, for computer services, etc., from the grant. Initially, this grant was gone after, since the City was already investigating cases of discrimination, to help offset costs. Now it is viewed as a grant funded function. Big portion of change is going back to outreach and education. Office would no longer be able to support work of Commissions. Mayor feels that most of the Commissions are ineffective and favors assembling task forces instead. So far, the City Council has voted on acceptance of the proposed concept. Not sure what the Council will do when it actually comes down to changing Ordinances or the Charter.</p> <p>Much discussion took place on the roles of the Commission and the Office, lack of attendance and going from discussing topics to actually getting things done. Office has been given to many functions in the Ordinance and cannot possibly achieve everything. Also, discussed that as long as the office has existed, there has always been a threat to funding and we are always going on the offensive to try to save it. Perhaps we need to stop doing that and ask where the functions are actually going to be assigned. If there is no time for the Office to accomplish</p>	Sign letter to Mayor and City Council regarding concerns with re-assignment of functions on behalf of Commission.	Jane Maddy

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NEW BUSINESS, cont.	<p>things now, how will things get done? City needs to take responsibility for closing the Office. Discussed that Community doesn't seem to care and can't seem to see that there are problems here.</p> <p>Suggestion made that a letter be written to the Mayor and the City Council regarding our concerns. Perhaps they could contain talking points that are succinct.</p> <p>Two sets of issues plainly evident:  1) Do we continue to support Office?</p> <p>2) Need to decide what we do and either do it or kill off the Commission ourselves. We need resources in order to do what we are charged to do – especially in education and outreach. It appears that things are reverting back to the way they were before the Human Rights Office was opened.</p> <p>History of Office and Ordinance reviewed. Determined that it was not possible, at this meeting, to clarify one objective. Suggestion made that the topic of our next agenda be focused on re-building the Commission by defining the purpose of the Commission and determining how we are going to fulfill that Mission. Suggestion made that next month's agenda consist solely of discussion of purpose and fulfillment of that purpose.</p>		
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	<p>5. Festivals</p> <p>A. <u>Juneteenth</u> – Had no representation there per recommendation at last month's meeting.</p> <p>C. <u>PRIDE</u> – Sample ad was available in everyone's folders. Suggestion made that we not go ahead with ad because we don't know what purpose it would serve. However, it was stated that what is really needed is our presence. We need to be more visible at events. Suggestion made here to suspend</p>	<p><i>Monica Day Roth made the motion to suspend activities until we determine purpose of Commission. Jon Dacken seconded. Motion carried.</i></p>	

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	activities, such as participation in Festivals, until we know what we want to do.		
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	<p>4. Committee Reports</p> <p>B. <u>Police Liaison</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No further bias related crime report in the last 30 days.</li> <li>2. <u>Civilian Review Board</u> – Description circulating that looks like one done in Minneapolis. No one showed up for the last regularly scheduled meeting.</li> <li>3. <u>Diversity training</u> – Still interest in working with Commission to get Diversity training instituted within Department.</li> </ol>	Provide copy of Minneapolis Civilian Review Board guidelines to John Beyer.	Bob Grytdahl
OTHER BUSINESS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions</u> – Annual meeting scheduled for October 4, 2008. Looking for representative to attend.</li> <li>2. <u>CNN</u> – All should have received email regarding upcoming series, “Black in America”.</li> <li>3. <u>League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions</u> – Looking for someone to fill District Director position. Nominations requested.</li> <li>4. <u>Member Issues</u> – Discussion of impending visit of Tall Ships on August 1-3, 2008. Ships look a lot like that of Christopher Columbus and/or slave ships. May be upsetting to some. Letter to be written by Anti-Racism Coalition and Clayton/Jackson/McGhie to major sponsors. Perhaps Commission could sign. Could use as educational opportunity.</li> </ol>	<p>Check calendar to see if able to represent Commission on 10/04/08 at League of Minnesota Human Rights Commission meeting.</p> <p>Sign letter on behalf of Commission.</p> <p>Provide copy of letter to Jon Dacken.</p>	<p>All Commissioners</p> <p>Jane Maddy</p> <p>Bob Grytdahl</p>
Next meeting: <b>Wednesday, August 13, 2008 @ 6:00 p.m.</b>			

