

Richfield Human Rights Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 8th, 2017

Members Present: Sara Gumke Jeff Wright Carrie Chillman
Debbie Eng Kirsten Klosinski Will Rukel
Swopnil Shrestha Ben Sunderlin Yamilez Ordonez
Sarah Musgrave

Mike Howard – City Council Liaison
Mike Koob – Public Safety Liaison

Guests: Heather Polivka, Margret Scheirman, Birgit Johnson, Steve Lavictoire

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Sara Gumke at 6:31pm.
2. Agenda approved; motion Eng, second Wright.
3. February minutes approved; motion Eng, second Klosinski. Ms. Scheirman pointed out that she was misquoted in the February minutes, secretary agreed to change the notes to reflect the correction. Motion to correct the mistake and revise the minutes; Eng/ second Wright; all present agreed.
4. Open public comment:
Ms. Johnson recited poem written by Fred Amram that was written to be included in a petition against the Richfield band shell and was published in the Sun Current as a letter to the editor on 4/25/14; copy given to secretary.
5. Reports:
 - a. Chair's report:
 - Sara was approached by the city planner to represent the HRC on a comprehensive task force plan, meeting time to be announced when Sara knows more, all commissioners are encouraged to attend.
 - Discussion of a leave of absence by Kirsten to address family need; by-laws do not address this specifically but all agreed to support Kirsten in her decision.
 - b. Secretary's report:
 - none
 - c. Vice Chair's report:
 - none
 - d. Liaison Reports:

-City Council Liaison: Mike Howard announced the election of Pat Elliot, Mr. Elliot will likely be sworn in at the March 28th City Council Meeting. Mike recapped his state of the city address and expressed excitement for the positive direction that Richfield is headed by actively addressing local issues; particularly housing and economic development, community trust in the police department, and creating an equity task force.

-City Liaison: no report

-School Board: not in attendance.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Naturalization event recap: Swopnil reported that the event was a big success, with approximately 170 representing 40 countries were sworn in as naturalized citizens; Swopnil, Mike Howard, the Richfield Superintendent, and the judge presiding the event spoke; the event was covered by WCCO and the Star Tribune.
- b. Black History Month book discussion of Frank White's book: All who attended enjoyed the discussion and thought it went well despite a small attendance.
- c. Black Lives Matter resolution: no update, committee is planning to meet soon.
- d. Islam 101: Scheduled for May 10th, 6:30-8pm at House of Prayer Lutheran Church, 7625 Chicago Ave, in the hall off the lobby. There is a regularly scheduled fellowship dinner the hour before; the public is welcome. There was further discussion as to the best way to inform the larger Richfield community and how to get an estimate of people interested, this will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- e. Yard signs/community outreach/sanctuary city: The original topic of yard signs morphed into a conversation of how to develop a plan that shows support of all Richfield communities that is more concrete. Group would like to have a conversation with local policy makers to ask what the HRC can do to develop partnerships and support our community. There was discussion of what a sanctuary city is and the role of the RPD in federal immigration law enforcement; will have further discussion on this topic.
- f. CEDAW resolution: This will be on the March 28th City Council agenda, Jeff and possibly Mark will present.

7. Unfinished Business:

- a. Social media officer role: Group met and was thought that this would be best as a separate role from the secretary; Will volunteered for this, he will meet with Lucas Johnson to clarify role/expectations/best way to communicate with community; Will will update the commission when he has more info.
- b. Reminder of upcoming events: Read-in of Sabing Zimering's memoir on 4/24 from 4-8pm (Swopnil will forward schedule for reading to more contacts); UofM Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies presentation at Augsburg Library on 4/26 from 6:30-8pm, discussing how the media plays a role in the coverage of genocide and human atrocities; Irene Colston photo presentation at Augsburg Library on 4/27 from 2-4pm; Fred Amram speech at Augsburg Library on 4/29 from 1:30-3pm.

8. New Business/Announcements/Open Forum:
 - a. Call for Jacobson Award nominations: The Gene and Mary Jacobson Outstanding Citizen Award is given yearly to a family, individual, organization or group to recognize outstanding community service or commitment to human rights in Richfield. Deadline for nominations is 4/30/17, form is found on the city's website and can be emailed, faxed, or printed and sent in. Kirsten will create Google Form for the application to have in advance of the April meeting when this will be on the agenda for a larger discussion.
 - b. Create 4th of July Parade sub-committee: Volunteers-Sara, Jeff, Ben, Sarah, Yami. Jeff will complete the registration. Further discussion at future meetings.
 - c. Sara reminded us of a meeting with Maria Regan Gonzalez from the City Council at Caribou at Cedar Point Commons on 3/25 at 1:00 to discuss several topics including increasing the inclusiveness/diversity measures on City Boards and Commissions.
 - d. Sara recognized Ms. Scheirman for the info on the Richfield Historical Society, highlighting women's role in saving Bartholomew House as well as the area surrounding Wood Lake. Ms. Scheirman will write a short description of the story and send it to Mike K who will forward it to Sara and Will for distribution.
 - e. Deb announced film and speaking event at Holy Angels on 3/15 at 3:00pm. This event is sponsored by the Richfield Social Justice Group and will feature the film "Documented" and will be followed by a Q&A and discussion.
 - f. Ben stated that he has BLM signs for sale, proceeds will go to the Neighborhoods Working for Change. He also states that he will find more info on the "All are Welcome" signs.
 - g. Jeff would like to add to next month's agenda a discussion of how the HRC can address affordable housing issues in Richfield. Mike H. reminded of, and encouraged attendance by the HRC members, of the Advisory board meeting on 3/20 at 6:00pm to discuss and encourage community involvement on this topic.
9. Next meeting is April 4th, 2017.
10. Motion for Adjournment. Motion Eng/Second Sunderlin; meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Minutes submitted by:
Carrie Chillman
Secretary