

MINNEAPOLIS COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 28, 2011

Minneapolis City Hall - Room 333
350 South 5th Street, Minneapolis, MN

6:09 PM: Call to Order/Roll Call

Commissioners in Attendance:

Scott Flaherty, Lonnie Nichols, John Oberreuter, Michelle Monteiro, Marla Khan, Sonja Peterson, Michael McHugh, Cecilia Rodriguez-Melendez, Adosh Unni, Bernadette Casey, Emily J. Froehle, Jennifer Thompson, Patricia Nelson, Surya Rochel,

City Staff: Velma Korbel, Monica Diaz; Michael Browne, Sherman Patterson, Frank Reed

Commissioners Absent: Joshua Williams, Andrew Hauer, Thomas Gallagher

Guests: Kenneth Brown

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Flaherty, No Objections, **Motion Passed.**

Approval of January 24, 2011, Meeting Minutes: Moved by Flaherty; Amended with correction of name change from Marla Almen to Marla Khan, **Motion Passed as Amended.**

Introduction of Commissioners: each Commissioner provides a self introduction

Director and Assistant Director's Report: Assistant Director Michael Browne indicates that Director Korbel is not available at this time and provides the Commission with an updated 2010 Case Files report. The Civil Rights Department continues to reduce the number of open files, with the goal of eliminating most open files by the end of 2011. The Civil Rights Department will hold a public meeting on the results of the Disparity Study on March 15, 2011, at the Central Auditorium.

Liaison's Report: Civil Rights Department staff Monica Diaz describes her duties as preparing meeting materials, calendar postings, receiving cases and helping to schedule file reviews and hearing panels and processes payments. Everything is basically ready for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Award Ceremony on Friday, January 28, 2011, at 9:30 A.M. in City Hall.

Commission Subcommittee Formation and Reports:

Commissioners select and/or are directed Chair Flaherty to participate in a subcommittee team to draft a 2011 work plan. Subcommittee Chairs and preliminary 2011 priorities are listed below:

Contract Compliance Committee – Chair: McHugh: Track two major projects, Central Corridor LRT and Riverside Avenue Reconstruction and make a presentation to the Commission in 2011. Meets the third Tuesday of month, 12:00 PM at Wild Roast Café

Public Relations and Education – Co-Chairs: Nelson and Khan: The annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Competition and other business to be determined. Meets the third Monday of month at 5:00 PM in City Hall-Room 241

Standards and Procedures Committee – Co-Chairs: Williams and Peterson: Review procedural and legal structure of the Commission and make recommendations as needed. Meets second Monday of Month at 6:00 PM in City Hall

Executive Committee, composed of Commission Officers and Subcommittee Chairs, reviews work and sets agenda of Commission. Meets second Monday of month at 5:00 PM in City Hall

League of MN Human Rights Commission: Commissioner Peterson provides handout on the “Healthy (LRT) Corridor for All” Rally on Saturday, March 5, and the “Speak Your Peace: The Civility Project” public forum on Thursday, April 21st.

Chair’s Report by Commissioner Scott Flaherty

Robert’s Rules of Order training will be done progressively throughout 2011 during Full Commission meetings. A hand out is provided to review for the March 2011 meeting.

New Business: Commission Treasurer Unni will circulate a budget proposal form in an effort to help the Commission determine the benefits and value and future financial needs of our work.

Moved Thompson, **Second** McHugh, make a presentation to the Commission at a future meeting, in May 2011 or later, on the contract compliance section of the City of Minneapolis Civil Rights Ordinance. Friendly amendment moved by Peterson and accepted to have the presentation take place during the June 2011 Civil Rights Commission Meeting, **Motion Passed.**

Moved Flaherty, **Second** McHugh, invite Professor Myers to give a 15-20 minute presentation to the Commission at a future meeting; and to invite Assistant Director Burns to a different meeting prior to Professor Myers presentation, **Motion Passed.**

Director Korbel indicates that the Department received a response from the Disparity Study consultant related to Professor Myers letter that should be reviewed prior to scheduling presentations with the Commission. Chair Flaherty will follow up on this and report back.

Public Comment: Kenneth Brown, former Commissioner, indicates that he is available as a resource upon request and requests that the Commission look into “lack of snow removal as a violation of Accessibility”, noting that accessible routes are too often blocked by snow.

Adjournment at 7:48 P.M. **Moved** Flaherty; **Second** Rodriguez-Melendez; **Motion Passed.**