

**MOORHEAD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
JANUARY 9, 2007  
7:00 PM  
MOORHEAD CITY HALL  
FIRST FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Phyllis Emmel, Dr. Richard Adler, Brian Arett, Kevin Kopperud, LaVerne Czichotzki, Stephanie Chimeziri, Dorene Neeland, Del Rae Williams, Erin Clark, Tammie Yak, and Diane Wray Williams

Members Absent: None

Others present: Ryan O'Keefe, City Staff

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS: The meeting was called to order by Chair Adler. Introductions of new Commission Member Diane Wray Williams from the Moorhead City Council and new Staff liaison Ryan O'Keefe from the City of Moorhead were made by the Chair. The Chair then had all of the Commissioners present introduce themselves to the members of the audience.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD: None.

REPORTS OF THE CHAIR/OFFICERS/COMMISSIONERS/COMMITTEES:

CHAIR'S REPORT: The Chair noted that this was the first meeting of 2007 and the first regular Commission meeting since October 10, 2006. He discussed the reason for canceling the December 11, 2006 meeting as being the transition of Commission staff, the holidays, and the lack of substantive topics to discuss. He also noted that he was absent for the community forum that was held in November 2006 and would like a commissioner who was in attendance to share any feedback they received regarding the Commission's Strategic Plan draft with him and the rest of the Commission.

JOINT MOORHEAD-FARGO HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER DISCUSSION: Chair Adler reported his discussion with John Marks of Trollwood, as well as with representatives of the Fargo Human Relations Commission, regarding a Joint Moorhead-Fargo Human Rights center. The Fargo Human Relations Commission intends to discuss the issue at their Annual Retreat. If both the Fargo Human Relations Commission and the Moorhead Human Rights Commission agree to support such a center, then discussions with the Trollwood board would need to take place.

COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION: Ms. Yak announced that the new draft of the strategic plan was back from Chelle Lyons Hanson, and she distributed a copy to the Commission. The next step is for the Commission to decide which comments from the public forum that they would like to see incorporated into the strategic plan. The Executive Committee will look over the plan and come to the body at the February meeting with recommendations. Prior to that meeting, Commissioners should contact members of the Executive Committee with their suggestions.

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE COMMISSION: Chair Adler noted that with the new strategic plan, 2007 would be a busy year and that all Commissioners should re-evaluate whether they are committed to dedicating the time necessary to do the work of the Commission. Council Member Wray Williams recognized the difficulty some Commissioners may have in playing the role of both

community advocate and member of a City advisory committee. She suggested that the Commission's role is to give a caring face to the City and to ensure that policy makers show some compassion to citizens.

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS EVENT PLANNING: The Commission briefly discussed the upcoming Human Rights Award on January 16<sup>th</sup>. All members of the Commission were encouraged to attend to show support for Clark Tufte, the award recipient. For future planning purposes, a timeline for the Human Rights Award selection and event planning was distributed to the Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS: Chair Adler read a letter to the Commission that he wished to send the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center in support of the upcoming "This Is My Home" workshop to be held at the Moorhead Area Public Schools. The Commission will reach out to teachers involved in the workshop to let them know that resources are available to implement the program if they would like to do so.

The Commission decided it felt comfortable with the Citizens Concern Process outlined in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. They did request that the entire Commission receive a monthly update of Citizen Human Rights Concerns so that they are aware of them and can advise the City Council of such occurrences. The Commission also requested that staff put an electronic version of the Citizen's Concern form on the City website.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Williams informed the Commission about an upcoming art exhibit that has a human rights theme. Certain groups around the metro area want to show this exhibit, the "Sister Corita: The Joyous Revolutionary," at the Spirit Room or Theatre B and are looking for various types of support from local human rights groups. Chair Adler suggested that the promoting groups make a formal request of the Commission or send a representative to a Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 9:07 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13th at 7:00 p.m. at Moorhead City Hall, First Floor Council Chambers.