

MOORHEAD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 14, 2006
7:00 PM
MOORHEAD CITY HALL
FIRST FLOOR SOUTH CONFERENCE ROOM

ATTENDANCE:

Current Members Present: Phyllis Emmel, Del Rae Williams, Dorene Neeland, Erin Clark, Tammie Yak, Dr. Richard Adler, Brian Arett, Verna Paul, Charles Larson

Members Absent: Kevin Kopperud, Steve Grineski, Greg Lemke

Others Present: Kim Wangler, City of Moorhead staff
John Arnold, City of Moorhead volunteer
Enson Maattala, Moorhead resident

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Arett called the meeting to order.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *Action taken:* Arett approved agenda.

MEETING MINUTES: *Action taken:* Dr. Adler motioned to accept the January 10, 2006 minutes, seconded by Yak. Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

2006 ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Arett reported that the MHRC is in need of a chair and vice-chair. *Action taken:* Yak nominated Dr. Adler for MHRC Chair, Emmel seconded the nomination. Hearing no other nominations. Williams motioned to accept Dr. Adler as the 2006 MHRC chair, Yak seconded. Motion is carried by unanimous vote. Emmel nominated Williams to be the MHRC Vice-Chair, Williams accepted the nomination. Emmel motioned to accept Williams as the 2006 Vice-Chair, Dr. Adler seconds. Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS PROMOTIONAL EFFORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS REPORT PROCESS: Arett informed the commission about efforts being made by Dr. Amy Phillips class of Minnesota State University-Moorhead, involving efforts to promote human rights, not only in the FM community but across the country. Arett agreed to follow the process for the commission and Dr. Adler mentioned that after the Education Committee is formed they could be assigned to this project.

BUILDING UNITY IN OUR COMMUNITY & MHRC AWARDS CEREMONY REPORT: Wangler reports that the two events went well and the award recipients were truly honored to receive the award. Arett reported that having the award ceremony at both the Building Unity event and the City Council meeting not only broadens exposure but also gives more recognition to the recipients. Yak suggested that the nomination process be simplified in order to encourage more nominations.

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS MEETING AND MN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OPEN FORUM REPORT: Emmel reported that at the last meeting the League agreed that Moorhead would host the June 25th meeting.

Wangler reported that the MN Department of Human Rights will host the Open Forum scheduled for March 30th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. The commission wanted to extend the representation of panelists and would like to further find out the mission or focus of the open forum. Wangler will visit with the MN Department of Human Rights to get further clarification and report back to the commission.

HOUSING SUMMIT WORKSHOP REPORT: Emmel reported that she and Neeland attended the housing summit, and were disappointed with the focus. The summit focused on workforce housing and issues related to families with incomes of \$30,000/year or more, not the housing issues of those with lower incomes. Arett suggested putting the issue of low income housing on a future agenda.

CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE: Arett reported that the committee has not met. There had been one application, however, the committee extended the application deadline, since other community members were interested in applying.

MOORHEAD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING: Yak reported that Chelle Lyons has agreed to do the strategic planning workshop. The commission agreed to reserve April 8th from 9am to 4pm. Yak also reported that the grant application has not yet been completed, and asked if the council would be willing to appropriate funds should Bremer not award the grant. Arett asked Wangler to consult with Lemke about additional funding. Wangler will check with the Hjemkomst Center for availability.

OTHER BUISNESS: Dr. Adler will appoint commission and/or community members to the Education Committee and Executive Committee and report the slate of members to the commission at the March meeting. Dr. Adler appointed Emmel to the Executive Committee as a member-at-large. Wangler will get contact names and numbers to Adler.

Williams reported that *Mujeres Unidas* will be hosting an event on April 29th in Dilworth and encouraged the commission to be present with a Human Rights information and possibly host carnival games and activities for kids. Wangler will get the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Spanish and Arabic versions.

The MHRC would like to invite Moorhead Police Chief Grant Weyland and Cass County Sheriff Bill Bergquist to the April MHRC meeting to discuss traffic stops and other community issues.

Dr. Adler adjourned the meeting.