

MOORHEAD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

March 13, 2007

7:00 PM

MOORHEAD CITY HALL

FIRST FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Members Present: Dr. Richard Adler/Chair, Tammie Yak/Vice-Chair, Diane Wray Williams/City Council Member, Phyllis Emmel, Kevin Kopperud, Stephanie Chimeziri, Dorene Neeland, LaVerne Czichotzki, Erin Clark, Stephanie Clark, and Miguel Balderas.

Members Absent: Brian Arett and Del Rae Williams.

Others present: Ryan O'Keefe/Staff Liaison, Duke Schempp/People Escaping Poverty Project (PEPP).

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS: The meeting was called to order by Chair Dr. Adler at 7:05 p.m. He then introduced two newly appointed members of the Commission, Miguel Balderas as an At-Large appointment and Stephanie Clark as a Co-Youth appointment.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA: ***Action*** Council Member Wray Williams moved, seconded by Ms. Chimeziri, to approve the agenda as presented. Vice Chair Yak requested that the Commission discuss the reasons the letter to the Legislature supporting SF279 was delayed by staff during the "New Business" section of the agenda. It was accepted as a friendly amendment and the motion passed by unanimous approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 9, 2006 MEETING: It was noted that the February 13, 2006 minutes were not ready for approval by the Commission due to a staff delay. Vice Chair Yak requested that future minutes be sent out within a week after a Commission meeting. ***Action*** CM Wray Williams moved, seconded by Ms. Czichotzki, to approve the January 10, 2007 meeting minutes as presented, which motion passed by unanimous approval.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD: Duke Schempp of PEPP gave the Commission an update regarding the status of SF279, a bill in the Legislature to seal arrest records in Minnesota where the arrest does not lead to a conviction. He then thanked the Commission for their support of the bill's passage.

CITIZEN CONCERN REPORT: On February 22, 2007, a citizen concern report regarding an alleged incident that occurred on February 18, 2007 was filed with the Executive Committee for its investigation. A full report to the Commission has been postponed pending the investigation by the Executive Committee.

"ONE TO ONE" TRAINING BY PEPP: Duke Schempp of PEPP conducted a workshop for the Commission on the "One on One" meeting technique. The purpose of "One on One" meetings is to build relationships, discover a party's interests, clarify communications, and gather information. Mr. Schempp distributed a worksheet to the Commissioners that assists in the process (attached).

REPORTS OF THE CHAIR/OFFICERS/COMMISSIONERS/COMMITTEES:

- a) Chair: Chair Adler reported that he was still uncertain of the Fargo Human Relations Commission's (FHRC) support for a joint Human Rights Center. Vice Chair Yak requested that the Commission receive information regarding the interest of the FHRC in a joint Human Rights Center by the April 10, 2007 meeting so the Moorhead Human Rights Commission can make its decision in a timely manner. ***Follow-up Action*** Contact Fargo Planning Office regarding this issue.

The Chair also noted for the Vice Chair and the Commission that he will not attend the April 10, 2007 Commission meeting.

- b) Staff: As requested at the previous meeting, Mr. O'Keefe, with the assistance of Council Member Wray Williams, gave the Commission an update on the proposed 20th Street underpass project in relation to the anticipated dislocation of some residents within the Greenwood Mobile Home Park. Specifically, it was noted that the project was not fully funded yet, so an exact timeline cannot be made available, but that an equitable, Federally-regulated process for compensation and relocation would be in place for any dislocated homeowner. Also, the City anticipates vacant lots would likely be available within the Greenwood Mobile Home Park for those dislocated homeowners who would like to stay within the neighborhood and relocate their manufactured home.
- c) Outreach: Stephanie Chimeziri informed the Commission that the Outreach Committee is requesting volunteers to help staff the Pangaea event that will be held in October.
- d) League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions: Vice Chair Yak updated the Commission on planning for the upcoming Annual League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions Conference being held on Saturday, September 30, 2006, at the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center, Walter Mondale Hall, 229 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis Minnesota. She requested that any member of the Commission who is interested in attending inform her and staff as soon as possible so that preparations can be made.

COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN: Due to time constraints, discussion of Goal 4, *Develop a Plan to Fund the Commission and its Priority Programs*, was postponed until the April 10, 2007 meeting. However, it was noted that Chair Adler and Vice Chair Yak would be presenting the approved portion of the Strategic Plan to the City Council at their March 26th Committee of the Whole.

BUDGET REPORT FOR FY 2007: Mr. O'Keefe gave a brief overview of the budget to the Commission. Members of the Commission requested that staff provide the Commission with a more detailed budget at the next meeting. Commissioners also asked several questions regarding the Otto Bremer grant including: has Chelle Lyons Hanson, the strategic planning consultant, been paid everything the Commission owes her; how much of the \$3,000 grant and \$1,000 City-match was retained by the City for administrative fees; and how much grant money is still available for strategic planning follow-up activities. ***Follow-up*** Prepare new budget presentation that addresses issues rose in discussion.

2007 PRIDE WEEK PAPER AD REQUEST: Mitch Marr of the Fargo Moorhead Pride Collective and Community Center sent a request of support to the Commission for their 2007 issue of *Pride*. In 2006, the Commission supported the publication with a \$140 purchase of a ¼ page, black and white advertisement. ***Action*** Mr. Kopperud moved, seconded by Vice Chair Yak, to purchase a ½ page, black and white advertisement in the 2007 issue of *Pride* for \$275, with a preference for a horizontally split layout. Council Member Wray Williams felt that the current logo design is best suited for color and requested a friendly amendment to change the purchase to a color advertisement for an additional \$40. The friendly amendment was accepted and the motion passed by unanimous approval. (Note: No more color advertisements were available as of March 14, 2007). ***Follow-up Action*** Design and order *Pride* advertisement.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATING MHRC MEETING LOCATIONS: At the March 6th, 2007 Executive Committee meeting, Mr. Kopperud suggested that the Commission periodically meet at different venues in order to educate members of the community on the topic of human rights and the work that the Commission does, as well as to educate members of the Commission on what human rights issues are relevant to members of the community. He felt that the Commission could do this as early as May and that locations could be arranged by the Outreach Committee. Ms. Chimeziri expressed her concern that changing meeting locations risks excluding interested parties if alternate venue locations are not widely communicated. ***Action*** Mr. Kopperud moved, seconded by Vice Chair Yak, to direct the Outreach Committee to search out alternative venues in the community for Commission meetings throughout the year with the goal of alternating between City Hall and such alternative venues every other meeting. The motion received unanimous support. ***Follow-up Action*** Outreach Committee arranges alternative Commission meeting venues.

NEW BUSINESS: At the previous meeting, the Commission supported sending a letter to the Legislature in support of SF279, or other legislation that seeks to seal arrest records in Minnesota where the arrest does not lead to a conviction. However, the letter was delayed due to concerns expressed by the Mayor and City Manager regarding the appropriateness of an advisory body of the City Council lobbying the State Legislature with a policy position that conflicts with that of the City's. ***Action*** Ms. Emmel moved, seconded by Council Member Wray Williams, to send an advisory letter to the City Council advising them that their current policy on tenant screening is wrong and needs to be changed. The motion passed by unanimous approval. Mr. Kopperud encouraged the drafter to reference Section 1.3-D of the Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure in the letter. ***Follow-up Action*** Draft letter to City Council and present it at the March 19, 2007 meeting.

Council Member Wray Williams noted that Fowzia Adde will be coming to the April 2, 2007 City Council meeting to discuss her proposed "New Immigrant Center/International Market." She encouraged members of the Commission to come to the meeting to show their support for this project.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION EXPENDITURES: The Commission approved the expenditure of \$315 for a ½ page color ad to support 2007 *Pride*.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 9:22 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 10th at 7:00 p.m. in Moorhead City Hall, Council Chambers.