

**MOORHEAD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**April 11, 2006**

**7:00 PM**

**MOORHEAD CITY HALL**

**FIRST FLOOR SOUTH CONFERENCE ROOM**

ATTENDANCE:

Current Members Present: Phyllis Emmel, Del Rae Williams, Tammie Yak, Dr. Richard Adler, Brian Arett, Charles Larson, Kevin Kopperud, Steve Grineski, Greg Lemke, Dorene Neeland, Verna Paul

Members Absent: Erin Clark

Others Present: Kim Wangler, City of Moorhead staff

Lori VanBeek, MAT Transit, City of Moorhead staff

Nazdar Hassan, Moorhead Public Schools

Irene Hogan, Moorhead citizen

Nancy Oster, Moorhead Public Schools

Enson Maattala, Moorhead citizen

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

AGENDA AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *Action taken:* Yak approved the agenda with the addition of Resolution Affirming Immigration under other business, seconded by Emmel. Motion is carried unanimous vote.

MEETING MINUTES: *Action taken:* William motioned to approve the March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 minutes, Kopperud seconded. Motion is carried unanimous vote.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD: Irene Hogan, Moorhead Public Schools Volunteer with ESL and ELL shared a letter of concern on behalf of the Muslim community related to holidays off and cafeteria menus. *Action taken:* Arett motioned to have Dr. Adler, Moorhead Human Rights Commission Chair, write a letter to the Moorhead School District, in support of the requests made by the ESL Department in regards to Muslim rights, seconded by Yak.

Enson Maattala reported that he did receive correspondence from Lynne Kovash, Moorhead Public Schools, in regards to selection of curriculum. The commission also said Kovash attended the last commission meeting and reviewed the curriculum process and how it relates to ethnicity. Maattala also referred to the Moorhead Human Rights brochure and asked how the Moorhead Human Rights Commission responds to hate crimes. Emmel had said that a Joint Hate Crime/Bias Response Plan has been adopted by the Moorhead Human Rights Commission and the Fargo Human Relations Commission. Adler also said there was a Hate Crime Prevention and Response Plan Workshop open to community on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-5:00 pm at the Hjemkomst Center.

MAT PARATRANSIT APPEAL PROCESS: VanBeek reviewed the MAT Paratransit Appeal Process with the MHRC. In 1991, the American Disability Act required an appeals process. At this point the Moorhead Human Rights Commission became a part of the appeals process. Since the MHRC is an advisory board some members of the commission did not feel they should make the final decision to allow or not allow a person to ride the Paratransit bus. Dr. Adler will visit with Bruce Messelt, City Manager, about the appeals process and what the commissions involvement should be.

FORMING AN OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Dr. Adler and the Executive Board would like to form an Outreach Committee to assist in providing direction in the MHRC's involvement in community functions and to also become more visible in our community. Williams, Neeland, and Larson agreed to serve on the Outreach Committee.

MOORHEAD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BULLYING POLICY: Kopperud reviewed the Moorhead Area Public Schools bullying process. The school focuses on prevention at the grade school level. On Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Robert Asp Media Center the topic - "Parenting to Prevent Bullying," will be discussed at the parents F.Y.I. Night.

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION: The MHRC participated in a Human Rights Education activity coordinated by Yak.

MN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OPEN FORUM UPDATE: Wangler reported that approximately 50 people attended the open forum. Wangler, Arett, Adler, Emmel, Clark and Williams attended this event. Clark did an excellent job as a youth representative as part of the panel discussion. The community asked several questions and the panelists did well. There were a few questions from the public in regards to the Civil Rights Review. Some members of the commission felt nothing has been done with this report. Arett and Lemke disagreed. Adler would like to visit with Bruce Messelt, City Manager, about the report.

FAMILY FIESTA DAY: The Moorhead Human Rights Commission will have a booth at the Mujeres Unidas Family Fiesta Day on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Universal Declaration of Human Rights information and MHRC brochures in Spanish and English will be available at the booth. Williams reported that other activities would include a play, low rider car/bike show, ethnic food, and dancers. Williams and Larson will assist with this event.

REPORT CARD INITIATIVE JOINT COMMITTEE: Yak reported that the committee has not met but would like this on next month's agenda.

MOORHEAD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING UPDATE: Yak reported that she would visit with Bruce Messelt in regards to the Otto Bremer Grant funding. Wangler reported that the next Council Meeting was May 1<sup>st</sup> and the item could be put on the agenda at that time. Lemke would support the matching funds and could inform the Moorhead City Council at the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting that the MHRC is working on a Strategic Planning Workshop and would like to request city funds to support the Otto Bremer Grant.

HATE CRIME PREVENTION AND RESPONSE WORKSHOP: The Hate Crime Prevention and Response Workshop will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Hjemkomst Center. The morning session from 8:00 am – 12 noon is for Law Enforcement and the afternoon session from 1:00 – 5:00 pm is for the community. The workshop is free and open to the public. This event is coordinated by the Moorhead Human Rights Commission and the Fargo Human Relations Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS: Dr. Adler handed out a "No Volunteer Left Behind" folder to each commissioner to use in recruiting new members onto the MHRC. Dr. Adler asked to table the Resolution for Immigration from the Minnesota League of Human Rights Commission until he gathered more data to answer questions he has.

Dr. Adler adjourned the meeting.