

MOORHEAD/FARGO JOINT HUMAN RIGHTS MEETING

June 22, 2005

6:30 PM

MOORHEAD CITY HALL

BASEMENT SOUTH CONFERENCE ROOM

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present:, Johnathan Judd, Phyllis Emmel, Brian Arett, Tammie Yak, Kevin Kopperud, Jim Danielson, Dr. Richard Adler, Cheryl Bergian, Alisha Ankers, Jonny Huang and Yoke Sim Gunaratne

Others Present: Kim Wangler, City of Moorhead staff

Dan Mahli, City of Fargo staff

John Arnold, City of Moorhead volunteer

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order by chair, Johnathan Judd.

JOINT HATE CRIME PREVENTION: Attorneys from both Fargo and Moorhead have agreed on the Fargo/Moorhead Hate Crime Prevention and Response Plan document. Dr. Adler voiced his concern with the differing laws between the state of North Dakota and Minnesota. Dr. Danielson says that the result of a hate crime is the same regardless of the law and that the purpose of the document should be to educate the public so as to create a hate free community. Dr. Adler states that part of the education should be about the differing laws so people of a protected class know the laws on each side of the river. Action taken: Dr. Adler motioned the Moorhead Human Rights Commission to accept the Fargo/Moorhead Hate Crime Prevention and Response Plan and submit to Moorhead City Council, Emmel seconds, unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION OF METRO-WIDE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: Dr. Danielson feels that the cities of Fargo and Moorhead should work towards creating a joint commission because we are essentially one community and Human Rights issues don't change when you cross a bridge. It is recognized that the major problem with forming a joint commission is logistics. Neither Fargo nor Moorhead has a single full time staff person for the present commissions. If a joint commission is created it will have to be determined what resources will be contributed by which city. It is generally agreed that there should be at least one full time staff person. Bergian points out that there are already examples of metro-wide commissions, so it can be done. It is agreed that both Fargo and Moorhead Commissions discuss this issue further at next joint meeting. Ankers recommended appointing two members from each commission to be liaisons if there is interest in pursuing a metro-wide plan.

JOINT HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES: It is agreed that the two commissions should work towards bringing diversity into the mainstream, and get schools, churches, hospitals, and parks involved. A day of learning and education of International Human Rights in a public forum should be conducted. Action taken: Dr. Adler moves that at each commissions next meeting two members are appointed to be part of a joint task force to address both joint human rights education ventures and joint human rights strategic plan ventures and report back to their respective commissions in October 2005. Yak seconds, motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS: Bergian mentions that Fargo is hosting the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition conference in late October of this year.

Dr. Adler mentions that on October 7th of this year there will be a Professional Issues conference held at the Marriot in Moorhead. This year's theme is youth GLBT issues, and a GLBT keynote speaker has been booked.

Bergian will be on sabbatical at UND Law School.

Action taken: Emmel motioned to cancel the July meeting of the Moorhead Human Rights Commission due to many scheduling conflicts. Yak and Dr. Adler opposed, motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned by Judd seconded by Huang.