

## **APPROVED MINUTES**

### **EDEN PRAIRIE HUMAN RIGHTS & DIVERSITY COMMISSION**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2018**

**7:00 P.M., EDEN PRAIRIE CENTER**  
Office of Housing and Community Services

**COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

Sana Elassar (Chair), Greg Leeper, (Vice Chair),  
Joan Howe-Pullis, Katherine Lucht, Ann  
Martinka, Shahram Missaghi, Leslie Philmon,  
Rehmatbai Sumra

**STUDENT MEMBERS:**

Shreya Anand, Meghana Chimata, Nikhita Dhar,  
Nicole Mayer, Branden Ross

**COMMISSION STAFF:**

Megan Yerks, Staff Liaison  
Julie Krull, Recording Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Chair Elassar called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. At 7:00 p.m., guest speaker Mark Weber gave his presentation. Commission Members Martinka and Sumra and Student Member Mayer were absent. Missaghi arrived at 8:20 p.m.

**II. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

The guest speaker for the evening was Mark Weber, of the Eden Prairie Community Foundation.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Lucht moved, seconded by Howe-Pullis, to approve the agenda. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Leeper moved, seconded by Lucht, to approve the September 13th, 2018 minutes. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**V. LOCAL NON-PROFIT PRESENTATION – MARK WEBER, EDEN PRAIRIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Chair Elassar stated it is Native American Heritage Month. The Commission viewed a presentation showing a video regarding pronunciations of Native American words as they pertain to cities and sites in the metro area and surrounding communities.

## HUMAN RIGHTS & DIVERSITY MINUTES

November 8, 2018

Page 2

Mr. Weber stated the Eden Prairie Community Foundation was started in 1981. The three principles the foundation wanted to accomplish:

1. Philanthropy – a vehicle for giving back to the community.
2. Collaboration – supports Eden Prairie's non-profits.
3. Leadership – identify Eden Prairie's imminent needs and rally the resources to meet them.

A project that utilizes all three of these principles is Onward Eden Prairie. This is the newest non-profit project. One of the things they accomplished was purchasing a home in Eden Prairie to house young people. They acknowledge teen homelessness is a problem in Eden Prairie.

Mr. Weber stated an example of collaboration is the Michelle Fund. The Eden Prairie Community Foundation gives funds to this non-profit organization. They also help fund organizations like, Interfaith Circle, so they do not have to claim non-profit status. The Foundation also gives funds for short term projects like the Veteran's Memorial to provide tax deductibility. Mr. Weber said they also started the After School Initiative; the Foundation gives \$7,000 to \$10,000 a year to PROP to keep a scholarship fund going.

Mr. Weber pointed out the Foundation is important because by working with the non-profits they know the greatest need in Eden Prairie. Also by working with them, they have a fast amount of resources, such as direct grants, donor advised funds and the wherewithal to motivate donors. Mr. Weber said the Commission Members can help the Foundation by attending events like Prairie Brew Fest, giving donations, starting a donor advised fund, serving on a committee and/or volunteering, and collaborating with the organization.

### **V. STAFF REPORT – MEGAN YERKS**

#### **A. COLLABORATIVE EVENTS COMPLETED:**

1. Coffee with the Cops – this took place on 11/3/18 and will be discussed in more detail in Old Business.
2. City Wide Open House – this took place on 10/6/18 and will be discussed in more detail in Old business.

#### **B. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. PeopleFest! Steering Committee has been created. – Park and Rec was at the meeting on 11/5/18 that also included community agencies/people, City and schools. The date for next year was set and is taking place on 8/11/19. Events will take place before and after PeopleFest! due to prescheduled Park and Rec events. The Committee would like the

## **HUMAN RIGHTS & DIVERSITY MINUTES**

November 8, 2018

Page 3

Commission to do the Human Library event. Planning roles: Performance Coordination, Vendor Coordination, Food Coordination, Event Hosts and Team Green.

2. Election Results – New Mayor: Ron Case; Returning Council Members: Kathy Nelson and Brad Aho; New Council Member: Mark Freiberg; Ron's seat will be filled by Council in early 2019.

### **C. UPCOMING EVENTS:**

1. Out North – this will take place on 11/15/18 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hennepin Technical College Cafeteria.
2. Unconventional Jobs, Unstoppable Women – this will take place on 11/27/18 at the Hennepin Technical College. Howe-Pullis and Chimata will be attending.
3. MN Department of Human Rights Symposium – this will take place on 12/4 and 12/5/18 at the Earl Brown Center in St. Paul. The cost is \$125 a day and includes lunch. Registration is online. The Symposium includes the following topics: Sexual Harassment: Beyond Severe and Pervasive; Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court; Navigating Systems Change; Culturally Responsive Leadership; Advancing Equity in Workforce; The United States & Human Rights: Moving Backwards at Home and Abroad.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. EDEN PRAIRIE OPEN HOUSE DEBRIEF**

This took place in early October. The spin wheel was a success.

### **B. COFFEE WITH THE COPS DEBRIEF**

Yerks asked the Commission what they thought of this event. Chair Elassar said it was a great success. Chimata suggested having this at the high school. She thought it evoked great conversation as did Lucht. Philmon said everyone asked good questions. Howe-Pullis said she and Leeper were at the same table and there was great information exchange.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. OUT NORTH**

## HUMAN RIGHTS & DIVERSITY MINUTES

November 8, 2018

Page 4

This was a documentary bringing film to Hennepin Technical College. This three part event consists of dinner, film clips and a panel discussion. It will be held on 11/15/18. Chair Elassar, Chimata, Howe-Pullis, Philmon and Dhar will be attending.

### **B. 2018 WORK PLAN REVIEW**

1. The things that went well were: PeopleFest!, Stop the Trafficking, Body & Soul, Acting Black, 5K Run, End of the Silence, Human Library, Human Rights Award.
2. What would be done different: Connecting to our communities of color by being creative and getting involved. Community connections need improvement at Prairie Meadows. Better engagement between Commissioners and students. There was frustration because there was no sub-commission on the housing plan. Howe-Pullis said the Commission needs to be a voice in the community of what home means in regards to housing. She stated that affordable housing means that a homeowner spends less than 30% of their income on housing. Leeper suggested connecting with the new City Council Member Frieberg on the housing issue. Chimata would have liked to have more people attend End the Silence.
3. 2018 Endeavors:
  - a. Monthly Awareness Campaigns – Chair Elassar suggested it was a good idea to continue with this. She stated this has been done internally but asked how the Commission could present this to the public. Yerks suggested posting to the Eden Prairie Facebook page. She would just need the content from the Commission and would send it on to Communications to be posted. Chimata suggested this could also be done in the Eden Prairie newspaper.

### **C. 2019 WORK PLAN**

1. Existing 2019 Commitments:
  - a. Human Rights Awards –application opens in Feb, selection in March, awarded in May.
  - b. Chain Reaction Theater: What Guys Really Want – this will take place on 2/21/19 at the City Center.
  - c. Stop the Trafficking 5K – This will be held in June of 2019, date to be determined.
  - d. PeopleFest!/Human Library/Intercultural Communication Workshop

## HUMAN RIGHTS & DIVERSITY MINUTES

November 8, 2018

Page 5

2. Potential 2019 Collaborations
  - a. Heritage Preservation Commission: Native American Heritage Month
  - b. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Yerks said that terms for Commissioners end in March. Chair Elassar, Howe-Pullis, Missaghi and Lucht's terms will be ending.

### IX. UPCOMING MEETING

A. **DECEMBER 13, 2018**

### X. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Philmon moved, seconded by Missaghi, to adjourn the Human Rights & Diversity Commission meeting. **Motion carried 6-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm