

City of Cottage Grove
Human Services/Human Rights Commission
Joint Meeting with City Council

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 3, 2008

Council Present: Myron Bailey
Mark Grossklaus
Fred Luden
Pat Rice
Sandy Shiely, Mayor

Members Present: Francisco Gonzalez
Tanweer (TJ) Janjua, Vice Chair
Sue Kainz
Jen Peterson, Chair

Members Absent: Lindsay Florin

Staff Present: Joe Fischbach
Ron Hedberg
Ryan Schroeder

1. Call to Order

At 6:30 PM the meeting was called to order.

2. Yeshiva Series

The Council and Commission discussed the four part series that focused on the Yeshiva School that is located in Cottage Grove. It highlighted their religion, culture, hobbies and tried to answer questions. The Commission will look to do a follow up some time in 2009. The Commission would also like to do a similar series on a different topic as well.

3. FacingRace- Ambassador Award, Special Recognition at the Volunteer Banquet

Former Chair of the Commission Rajean Moone was recognized for his efforts on the FacingRace initiative by both the St Paul Foundation and the City. The Commission would like to have another session and will try to get as many people to attend as possible.

4. Commission Work Plan/Changes to the City Code/Role of the Commission

In 2007 the Chair, the Council liaison and staff reviewed the City Code and how it relates to the Commission. The Code specified duties that the Commission was not trained to handle and some that were out of their purview. The City Council adopted a resolution to change the language to reflect more of what the Commission was actually doing. A mission statement, goals and objectives for the Commission were also developed as well as a Roll of the Commission guide.

5. November Strategic Planning/Capacity Building Session

The Commission received a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Rights to conduct a strategic planning/capacity building session. The Commission has selected November 15th as the date and a facilitator from MAP for Nonprofits to conduct the session. The goal of the session is to expand on the goals and mission that were developed and identify areas where the Commission can focus their efforts.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Fischbach
Management Analyst