

City of Cottage Grove
Human Services/Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 11, 2007

Members Present: Francisco Gonzalez
Tanweer (TJ) Janjua
Sue Kainz
Devan King
Rajeane Moone, Chair
Jen Peterson, Vice Chair
Christie Thompson

Members Absent: Bailey Hill

Council Liaison: Fred Luden

Staff Liaison: Joe Fischbach

1. Call to Order

At 7:05 PM the meeting was called to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

Sue made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2007 meeting. Francisco seconded the motion, All Present in Favor.

3. Presentation by Community Development Director Howard Blin

Community Development Director Howard Blin gave a presentation regarding the updating of the City's Comprehensive Plan. He specifically explained the process and why it needs to be done. The Steering Committee is discussing Land Use, Transportation, Parks and Housing. There is also a push by the Met Council to get cities to build more affordable housing units. The draft version and public hearing are scheduled to be completed in April of 2008. City Council would then take preliminary action in May. Some of the issues the committee is addressing are how to manage growth and demographic changes. Howard also discussed the current land use plan and how it may change over the years.

4. Commission Work Plan

5. Commission Projects

The Commission discussed the Human Rights Guide. Because Washington County puts together a similar guide it may not make sense to put together another one. It may be beneficial, however, to add some information regarding human rights resources. Joe will try to find out the Washington County staff person who puts the guide together and see if additional information could be added. The Commission also discussed the possibility of giving out an annual Human Rights award to a resident or business that goes above and beyond in this area. Sue will check in to further.

6. Diversity Highlight of the Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month.

7. City Update

Councilmember Luden updated the Commission about projects going on in Cottage Grove. Cottage Grove will be getting a Culver's in the current Kohl's parking lot. Werner Electric will be constructing their regional headquarters in the industrial park. The roundabout is open. Cottage Grove Junior High will be getting two additions. There is a proposal for development on the CottageView site that has been brought forward by the developer.

8. Commission Comments & Requests

The Commission will draft a letter of support to the Yeshiva School. Their torah was recently stolen.

9. Adjourn

Sue made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM; Seconded by Jen, All Present in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Fischbach
Management Analyst