



**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES
CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Date of Meeting: April 15, 2010
City Hall Facility -- Heritage Room
Time Began: 7:10 p.m.
Time Adjourned: 9:30 p.m.

Meeting Attendance—Commissioners							
Member	District	Present		Member	District	Present	
		Yes	No			Yes	No
Kwao Amegashie	At-Large		x	Novella Olawore	At-large	x	
<i>Jessica Ayub</i>	At-large	x		Elizabeth Knight	At-large	x	
Evelyn Staus	At-large	x		Hassanen Mohamed	At-Large	x	
Jackson George, Jr.	At-large	x		Wynfred Russell	At-large	x	
Yelena Kurdyumova	At-large	x		Josephine Thao	Youth	x	
				Open	Youth		
Denise Rene Wollenburg <i>City Staff Liaison</i>	Liaison	x		Dean Heng <i>Council Liaison</i>	Liaison	x	

DRAFT MINUTES

Guests present were former Commissioner Terry Parks; Lonte Hill, Program Coordinator for The Center of Hope and Compassion; and Sergey Porada, spouse of Commissioner Kurdyumova.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Vice-chair Knight.

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the meeting. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2010 meeting. The motion passed.

Former Commissioner Terry Parks asked for a few minutes in which to formally say good-bye. The Commissioners applauded his 6 years of service on the Human Rights Commission.

Vice-chair Knight presented her update. She suggested:

- Mentoring new Commissioners, by pairing each one with an experienced Commissioner
- Doing a talent assessment of Commissioners, to guide utilization of those talents more efficiently
- Revisit the strategic plan that was devised during the planning sessions in 2008
- Holding nominations tonight in preparation for the election in May

Councilman Heng reported:

- that the 17th hole of the City golf course has gone dry. Discussions are being held about how to address that.
- the EDA is developing a new rental program to help address homelessness in our community

Staff Liaison Wollenburg reported:

- A program at the library in which someone can “check out” a person and interview them to learn about their culture;
- Crime Watch meeting on April 23 at the CAC;
- May 26 another Community Café gathering at 6:30, with mini-cafes being held thru July

Business:

- Introductions of both new and old Commissioners were given;
- Cinco de Mayo is May 1, from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. at Zanewood—HRC members will be greeters;
- Communications: Vice-chair Knight called for open, transparent communication among Commissioners with everyone “in the loop;” perhaps develop a newsletter from the HRC to the City Council for occasional distribution;
- Define the complaints protocol between police, Liaison Wollenburg, the Chair and the rest of the Commissioners.

Annual Report:

City Council meeting, Monday, April 19—

- present annual report from the HRC—mention Bias/Hate Crime Response Team;
- HRC cards developed to hand out in community;
- HRC’s work with Building our Community Coalition and African-American Action Council.

Commissioner Mohamed moved that a subcommittee be formed to work on the issue of equity in contracting of City jobs, in cooperation with BOCC and AAAC. Commissioner Ayub seconded the motion. The motion passed. Commissioners who volunteered for the subcommittee are Mohamed, Olawore, Knight, and George. Councilmember Heng and Lonte Hill will also be part of the subcommittee.

Bias/hate crimes:

- Fall incident: the perpetrators have been sentenced;
- March incident: Hennepin Co. did not want to charge the perpetrator; BPPD is insisting on a felony charge and is appealing the County’s decision. The victim and friends of the perpetrator attend the same school. There has been some verbal interaction between these boys. The school is not taking the issue seriously, and has called in only the victim for discussions.
- The HRC will attempt to take a supportive role. The subcommittee charged with bias/hate crimes, comprised of Commissioners Knight, Mohamed, and Staus will plan to interface with the Anoka-Hennepin District office of diversity and offer training to staff. The HRC will chart a separate and independent course from law enforcement.

All Commission Meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Commissioner Russell reported:

- African Career, Education & Resource Fair: April 24, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at North View Jr. High.

- HRC will have a table. Commissioners Mohamed and Staus and Staff Liaison Wollenburg will be there.

Youth Liaison Thao presented the Youth Survey Report, detailing the results of her survey of 55 students in Brooklyn Park. She found that 40 out of the 55 youths queried could not answer the question about the diversity within city government as they had no idea who represents the community. Thao volunteered to expand the survey to a much larger segment of the youth population. She distributed a detailed, written report, complete with pie charts. The Commissioners lauded her for her good work.

Nominations:

Chair: Commissioner Elizabeth Knight

Commissioner Hassanen Mohamed

Vice-chair: Commissioner Hassanen Mohamed

Secretary: Commissioner Evelyn Staus

The election will be held by secret ballot at the May 20th meeting. Nominations can be accepted, from the floor, at that time, if desired.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by Evelyn Staus, HRC Secretary