

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Present: Julie Ralston Aoki, Molly Beahen, Patrick Nailon, Matt Murphy (nominee), Rita Fox, Joanna Brookes (City Liaison).

Excused: Courtney Kirkeeng, Kristyn Lee.

Absent: Dan Dlugose (nominee), Carlos Wallace Smith.

Also present: Brad Sutton.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. Approval of agenda for 5/29/25.

Motion to approve the agenda for May 29, Nailon. **Seconded**, Beahen. **Motion carried.**

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of minutes from 4/24/2025.

Motion to approve minutes of 4/24, Beahen. **Seconded**, Fox. **Motion carried.**

CHAIR REPORT

Ralston Aoki shared various resources that she has found to be helpful and informative. Notably, the Code Switch podcast has recent episode about the current federal administration's DEI impacts. The 5-4 Podcast about Supreme Court cases has a recent episode that is relevant to the Obergefell event. There is a recurring theme of civil rights advances and then backlash.

Ralston Aoki will distribute the slide deck that Molly and Courtney used in presentation to Chamber of Commerce.

Thank you to Molly Beahen for her service to the HRC over several years. Today is her last meeting.

Beahen expressed her appreciation for the work of the HRC, how creatively we are working now, and her hope for what is happening locally.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of HRC presentation to City Council

Discussion of the draft Pro-Community resolution at the City Council work session on May 13th. A recent Sun Post article was written about it. City staff will put the resolution into the official format for consideration by Council at a June meeting. Also discussed person camping under water tower- does the City need an ordinance? Kirkeeng has followed up and sent some additional info. The HRC could provide support and connect folks with other organizations that could help the City's work.

Sutton: Concerned that the resolution is overly long and that people won't read it. Sees the purpose, is concerned about possible adverse reaction and wants to see it land well. Agrees it's the right thing to do.

Ralston Aoki: Reminder that the resolution will also have positive feedback.

- B. Pro-Community Resolution

Next steps: Ralston Aoki will bring the final draft to Tim. The subcommittee will develop talking points.

Motion to authorize subcommittee to create talking points, Fox. **Seconded**, Nailon. **Motion carried.**

- C. Obergefell Educational Event

The subcommittee met on May 3rd. City Hall has been finalized as the venue for the event. Still working on the order of presentation. OutFront MN will be talking about their post-inauguration guide. Karen Thompson and Patty Bressler will discuss their personal histories. There is a possibility of a panel discussion. Fox is working on publicity for June Pride events. The next planning meeting will be held on June 21st.

D. Developing a Communications Plan for Human Rights-Related Information and HRC Activities

City will feature the Obergefell event in communications in June, Rita is working on a draft. The idea is for the HRC to have a steady presence in the Birdtown Brief.

Motion to authorize the subcommittee to prepare an article for the Birdtown Brief, Beahen. **Seconded**, Ralston Aoki. **Motion carried.**

E. RPHC Work and Community Engagement

A planned salsa event at Robbins Landing was postponed because of a family emergency. A community dinner is planned with residents to help build a culture of community within the building. Residents helped one another through the fire in other ways. They will be able to nominate other residents as heroes to be recognized at the dinner. HRC is working with the JCPP on food, certificates, etc. A speaker from Homeline will speak to the group about tenants' rights for people with disabilities and the potential creation of a residents' council. An email on the topic of Beloved Community will be sent to commissioners. Healthcare for all is a focus of this group. There is advocacy for this happening at the state level.

Kirkeeng and Beahen presented at the Chamber of Commerce. The presentation addressed the topic of DEI: why it's been a buzzword, what it is, and how it's beneficial from a business standpoint.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Applications for new HRC members

Sutton said as he read through the applications of recent commissioner nominees, he was struck by the amount of writing that was needed to complete the application, and noted that this is not part of the process for other City commissions.

Ralston Aoki stated that the supplemental questions began because in the past, some members commissioners did not attend regularly after they were appointed. The idea was to ensure that applicants were aware of the commitment involved. Agreed to review the questions to see if they could use revisions.

The citywide commission application also may benefit from review. Brookes: Will look into this to see whether it can be improved.

B. Presentation of Robbinsdale DEI Committee Charter and Annual Plan

Brookes presented the charter and annual plans for the City's DEI committee.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Fox: Recently traveled to Scotland. Was heartened to see that the Scottish people do not equate individual Americans with their government. The BBC had a feature with a 5-year reflection on the Floyd murder and its worldwide impact.

Beahen: Promised to keep in touch.

Ralston Aoki: No further updates.

Nailon: No updates.

Murphy: There was a presidential action on April 28 that purports to aim to pursue criminals and protect innocent civilians. The upshot is the militarization of state and local law enforcement. Things in the order specifically mention paying for pro bono services for officers unjustly taken to court for their actions. Includes the review and modification of consent decrees, the utilization of military and security assets to prevent crime, and holding state and local officials accountable for "discrimination" under DEI policies. The Minneapolis

consent decree that came out of the Floyd event was rescinded. Could we have a dialogue of understanding with the Robbinsdale police dept, about what the action will look like in real life?

Ralston Aoki: Suggested putting a plan together and involving Philip Gray. John Elder could come to a meeting for the RPD.

Move that commission takes up investigation into executive order of April 28, 2025 and develops a plan to respond, Nailon. **Second**, Ralston Aoki. **Motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned 9:20 PM.