

Human Rights Commission

Minutes – August 21, 2018

Westwood Room, City Hall

I. Call to Order

Chair Wilhelm-Garbers called the meeting to order at 7:03.

A. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Sara Wilhelm-Garbers, Katherine Arnold, Maria Eustaquio, Justin Carlson, BethAnne Stolp, Todd Sandler and Jack Ostrovsky

Staff Present: Lt. Garland and Staff Liaison Breanna Freedman

B. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Sandler made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Stolp and Commissioner Ostrovsky seconded. 7-0 approve.

C. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Stolp made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes. Commissioner Ostrovsky seconded. 7-0 approve.

II. City Council Request to Discuss the matter of Immigration and Separation of Families

Chair Wilhelm-Garbers gave a brief recap of where the request originated, from the Allies of St. Louis Park group, who asked city council to look into making a recommendation on a statement. The city council gave direction for the Human Rights Commission to look into assistance for making a recommendation and advise the city council on this.

Commissioner Stolp made a motion to form a subcommittee to take charge of this request. Commissioner Arnold seconded. Commission voted and passed 7-0.

III. BWC Update

Commissioners Carlson, Ostrovsky and Sandler attended the city council study session and public comment session where the police body worn cameras were discussed and gave an update of the conversation.

Most of the comments and questions from the sessions were regarding officer disgression and the definition of that in the policy.

The commission will seek clarification if the city council would like additional comments from the HRC. Chair Wilhelm-Garbers asked the commission about forming a subcommittee and the commission discussed this possibility for creating the final statement for city council.

Chair Wilhelm-Garbers, Commissioners Eustaquio and Carlson will be on the subcommittee for forming this subcommittee.

The commission discussed the current draft of the policy that Chief Harcey shared with the commission.

Commissioner Eustaquio asked about input from communities of color and been consulted on the policy and what kind of outreach will be done once the body worn cameras are

The commission discussed and will ask how the HRC will work with the Police Advisory Commission and Multicultural Advisory Committee in the future of this policy.

IV. League of Women Voters potential collaboration

Chair Wilhelm-Garbers received communication from the League of Women Voters regarding if there would be anything in the near future where the commission would like to partner with on an event before the midterm elections.

The commission discussed possible opportunities for assisting the League of Women voters with any potential outreach in addition to some other possible community organizations.

Commissioner Stolp had the idea to reach out to a few local organizations to connect with to see where the commission can support current work.

The commission voted on commissioning Commissioner Stolp to do some research and inquire on collaboration with community organizations. Commissioner Sandler made a motion to approve. Commissioner Carlson seconded. Commission voted and approved 7-0.

V. City Code Sec 2. Human Rights Commission

Commissioner Kornblit (not present) asked the commission to review the document.

The commission briefly discussed if there were any questions regarding City Code Sec. 2.

vi. St. Louis Park Racial Equity Collaboration meeting

Commissioner Stolp and Arnold attended the July meeting organized by City Staff Racial Equity Manager Alicia Sojourner. The commissioners gave a brief recap of the meeting and shared what the group is working on.

Commissioner Carlson attended a joint-city meeting in Hopkins, a discussion with other regional municipalities on collaborating and learning from each other to advance improvements towards racial equity. He gave a brief overview of the discussion and plans to attend meetings in the future.

Commissioner Arnold made a motion to assist with promoting the Heart of the Matter event happening on October 11. Commissioner Carlson seconded. The commission voted; passed 7-0.

vii. MN Dept. of Human Rights Weekly Digest Bulletin

Staff Liaison Freedman shared the most recent bulletin released by the MN Dept. of Human Rights announcing the upcoming Symposium in December. The HRC showed interest in the event and Staff Liaison Freedman will continue to share information on the event.

viii. New Business

Commissioner Carlson noted that the city engineering department will be working on making sidewalks ADA compliant. The commission will be alerted on any other happenings around this matter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.