

Meeting Minutes

Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission
Public Relations & Engagement Committee

September 11th, 2018

6:00pm-7:00pm

Robbins Urban Wellness Retreat

Attendance

Commissioner Robbins, Commissioner Magarian, Commissioner Oberreuter, Commissioner Simones, Commissioner Malloy.

Absent: Commissioner Jones

- 1) Review and approve minutes
- 2) Review and approve agenda
- 3) Communication & Events Committee report:
 - A. With the exit of Aaliyah Hodge, who chaired this sub-committee, the seat is vacant. Commissioner Robbins is working with Taylor to collect data collected from Google events form created to capture events and also identify radio contact at KFAI, etc. She will also explore other media partnerships.
 - B. Commissioner Farrar offered to spearhead writing civil rights related articles and social media posts. All agreed to funnel specific legal issues/questions through the City Attorney's office before posting. All committee members may post or share individually, or send to him or PR&E Chair to post on their behalf.
 - C. Commissioner Simones has offered to continue leading the effort to blend powerpoint presentations to create one specific to MCCR, including a version submitted by Commissioners Malloy and Farrar. Commissioner Robbins advised a review of the powerpoint shared during the Commission Retreat in January for specific language around protected class and the role of the Commission. Commissioner Robbins will follow up with Commissioner Jones regarding youth-centric messaging to incorporate in the outreach materials.
- 4) Youth Outreach
 - A. Commissioner Malloy shared an update RE: Minneapolis Foundation. Still no traction. Exploring hosting a safe space for Muslim Somalian LGBTQ youth. Approached Bush Foundation, said it's not something they would fund. Commissioner Robbins urged to complete a final report on recommendations for MLK. Commissioner Malloy's goals are to fundraise in 2019 and host the essay contest in 2020.
 - B. Commissioner Malloy has stated he's not interested in chairing a subcommittee; he only signed on to explore MLK feasibility.
 - C. Commissioner Robbins reiterated collective goal to engage community and youth around civil rights. Commissioner Robbins would nominate Commissioner Jones to lead this sub-committee; Commissioner Malloy said she was not interested; however, she wasn't in attendance. Will revisit.
- 5) The majority in attendance are not in favor of following parliamentary meeting rules and procedures. They would prefer a more casual approach to meetings, less formal - without inserting titles, etc. Commissioner Robbins shared that while a less formal meeting style could be favorable, some order and structure are essential to ensuring tasks and mutually agreed upon goals are completed with some systems of

accountability. In the absence of sub-committee chairs, there isn't accountability and it could potentially leave a few doing more work than others. She will raise these items with MCDR for direction.

- 6) Most committee members expressed lack of clarity on the purpose of MCCR and their role in it. Each Commissioner shared their reasons for joining the Commission. Commissioner Magarian doesn't feel her talents as an attorney and connector/influencer are being utilized. Commissioner Simones expected that we would participate in more public hearings, reviewing civil rights cases brought forth by the public. Most feel the Commission Chair has not shared a clear vision or platform of what her goals are for the Commission. Commissioner Farrar suggested that the items detailed in the work plan are more geared toward being a 'community organizer'. Commissioner Robbins reminded all that the Civil Rights Commission was created as a direct result of community organizing. Our purpose is to engage and connect with community and create more awareness where it's presently lacking. She further stated that despite the barriers, the committee and Commission had an opportunity to reach constituents where they are; versus a 'privileged' view, expecting them to come to us. Commissioner Robbins will raise these issues with the Executive Board and explore funding to cover outreach costs.
- 7) The Committee reviewed its 2018 work plan. Although we didn't hit all of our goals, we hit quite a few, particularly with those Commissioners who actually participated in various community events-despite delays with gaining clarity with MDCR. We will begin our reporting process late October/November, 2018. The work plan also calls for a potential end-of-year retreat.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

The next meeting will take place Tuesday October 9th at 6pm at the Robbins Urban Wellness Retreat 3900 Thomas Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55412.