

1 **Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **April 20, 2022**
4

5
6 **Commissioners Present:** Keith Allen, Amanda Becker, Etienne Djevi, Richard James,
7 Kathryn Macomber, Laura Palmquist and Adepeju Solarin (Peju)
8

9 **Youth Commissioners:** Ilene Park

10
11 **Commissioners Absent:** Paul Haas, David Sindiga, and Beverly Yiling Xie (excused)
12

13 **Staff Present:** Thomas Brooks, Equity and Inclusion Manager
14

15 **Call to Order/Roll Call**

16
17 The Human Rights, Inclusion, and Engagement Commission (HRIEC) meeting was called to
18 order at 6:30 p.m.
19

20 **Approve Agenda**
21

22 Commissioner Macomber moved and Commissioner Becker seconded a motion to approve the
23 Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
24

25 **Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

26 Ms. Katie Engman, Roseville and Mr. Eugene Nichols, Shoreview were at the meeting to discuss
27 some ideas with the Commission.
28

29 Mr. Nichols indicated he is a member of the Minnesota Smoke Free Generation and is a board
30 member of Answer, Association for Non-Smokers as wells as a member on the Shoreview
31 HRIEC. He explained Roseville and Shoreview have recently taken emboldened action to
32 improve racial and health equity in the communities by restricting the sale of flavored tobacco
33 products and they need to continue to do what the cities can to continue to address the health
34 inequities caused by the tobacco industry. A just society assures that no person is exposed
35 repeatedly to harmful things. Big tobacco channels more advertising, discounts and displays of
36 their dangerous products into communities of color, LGBTQ and low-income communities.
37 These aggressive marketing practices contribute directly to health disparities. In order to achieve
38 a high standard of health for all without distinction of race, age, gender, political belief or
39 economic or social condition, they must change these practices. He reviewed background
40 practices of the tobacco industry. He explained he would like to bring two ideas for the HRIEC
41 to consider in the future. One is capping the number of tobacco licenses in Roseville and the
42 second is ending all price discounting. He reviewed the two ideas and what other cities have
43 done. He explained as the HRIEC in Shoreview they looked forward to continuing this
44 conversation with the Roseville HRIEC and the community.
45

46 Commissioner Peju asked if there was one specific actionable item that the Shoreview HRIEC is
47 seeking the Roseville HRIEC to do.

48
49 Ms. Engman thought the one actionable item she would like the Roseville HRIEC do is to
50 continue to look at how tobacco industries effects health and equities in the City’s youth and pass
51 a resolution or understanding this and where it plays a role in the community and then moving
52 forward she thought it was really important to have the Roseville HRIEC onboard before moving
53 anything else forward.

54

55 **Commission Response to Community Issues**

56 Chair Palmquist indicated a couple of emails came into the HRIEC. She asked if staff sent
57 responses to either email. She noted one email was from the School Board and the other was
58 from the Optimist Club.

59

60 Vice Chair James indicated he did go online and looked at a couple of School Board public
61 comments. He explained the comments disturbed him a lot and as a resident he did intend to go
62 to a School Board meeting and express a different view. He explained he would not be
63 mentioning the Commission or speaking on behalf of the HRIEC. He explained this made him
64 upset to see there is an organized group of people who are willing to essential deny rights and go
65 against inclusion that the schools are trying to do. As a former teacher and former school board
66 member there is not always a right or wrong thing, it is the best decision that can be made at the
67 time. He thought the School Board and Superintendent are making honest, legitimate efforts to
68 try to make everyone be as accommodated and feel as included as possible. He thought it was
69 important to hear another voice. He noted he was also planning on sending a letter to the
70 superintendent and the School Board expressing the same kind of thoughts.

71

72 Councilmember Becker agreed and sent a personal note to the Board and has decided to go
73 herself as a resident of the City.

74

75 Mr. Brooks updated the Commission on the email regarding the Optimist Club proposed project.

76

77 The Commission discussed procedural processes for replying to emails moving forward.

78

79 **Approve Minutes**

80

81 **a. March 16, 2022 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**

82

83 Commissioner Macomber moved and Vice Chair James seconded a motion to approve the March
84 16, 2022 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission meeting minutes as presented.
85 Motion passed unanimously.

86

87 **Youth Commissioner Report**

88 Youth Commissioner Park reported she is keeping in contact with Dr. Lake and are still talking
89 about how to make the school more inclusive and diverse through the Superintendent Advisory

90 Council. She indicated she has had a separate meeting with the leadership team as well and
91 trying to make progress on how to better improve the community at school.

92

93 **New Business**

94

95 **a. Discussion Debriefing Joint HRIEC and Council Meeting 04.11.22**

96 Chair Palmquist provided a recap of the joint meeting with the Commission.

97

98 Mr. Brooks thought the meeting went really well. He thought one of the big things
99 was there was still some confusion regarding the essay contest and the Commission
100 will need to figure out which direction this subject should go.

101

102 Vice Chair James thought the meeting went well and that there was a really good
103 exchange of information and ideas. He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all
104 of his fellow Commissioners as well as the leadership this past year because this is
105 the type of Commission he wanted to belong to when he volunteered for this. He was
106 confident that going forward the Commission is going to keep the ball rolling and
107 keep things moving forward.

108

109 **b. 2022 Work Plan Updates and Discussion**

110 Chair Palmquist reviewed the 2022 work plan. She asked for an update on the Essay
111 Contest.

112

113 Vice Chair James thought the Commission should step back and take the rest of the
114 year to find out what is going on with the contest. He thought the sub-group should
115 talk to the teachers and even students to find out what the problem is and how it can
116 be solved.

117

118 Commissioner Macomber thought the Commission could also look to other
119 communities to see what those communities are doing because she was surprised to
120 hear that at one time this was done State wide. She knew Shoreview does a poster
121 contest and thought it might be worthwhile to see what other communities around
122 Roseville are doing and even if their responses have changed with COVID.

123

124 Commissioner Becker indicated Commissioner Djevi and herself spoke with Mr.
125 Eubanks from the Native American Community as well as the parent group of the
126 Indigenous youth about being a part of the Rosefest Parade. The group had a meeting
127 last night and were going to make a final decision but the group of youth were very
128 interested in participating in the parade. She noted full slots were extended to them,
129 which there could be up to fifty people in the group. She indicated the subgroup will
130 continue to work with the Native American Community to decide how the group
131 wants to be represented and what that would look like.

132

133 Commissioner Djevi explained the Commission needs to get the application into the
134 Rosefest committee.

135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179

Commissioner Becker indicated she sent an email to the group requesting that she could submit the application this week so that it gave the Native American Community one more opportunity to discuss this and get final confirmation. She noted she will submit the application this week.

Commission consensus was to allow the subgroup to move forward with the application submission to the parade committee.

Commissioner Djevi asked if the Commission thought it would be helpful if the two slots for the HRIEC for diversity group walking will be helpful for them to be right by the Commissions.

The Commission thought that made sense.

Commissioner Becker wondered if the request could be added to the application so the Commission could be by the group walking.

The Commission concurred.

Vice Chair James wondered if T-shirts would be necessary.

Commissioner Macomber thought the Commission could get name tags.

Mr. Brooks indicated he sent an email to get the ball moving on the shirts with an online store link for the Commissioners to order what the Commissioners wanted. This will be a Roseville logo shirt and there will be lanyards with the Commissioners names.

Vice Chair James indicated he has a request for the Commission. He explained Chair Palmquist, Mr. Brooks and himself met and talked about a list of the groups in Roseville. He was told a list does not exist so he has volunteered to be the gatherer of groups and group names. He asked if the Commissioners could forward him any information regarding groups that the Commission have had contact with.

Chair Palmquist explained Vice Chair James and she have been talking about the main idea of the Proclamations subgroup and how the group can be most useful when the proclamations are divided up. After discussing this, they still wanted to keep the subgroup ongoing as long as they continue doing proclamations for the City and the group is there as a resource. The subgroup will not be doing all of the work but will still be involved in some capacity as well as holding the other Commissioners responsible for getting the proclamations done on a timely basis.

Vice Chair James explained he talked with Chair Palmquist and if a Commissioner wanted to change sub-groups to let Chair Palmquist know. If any Commissioner is

180 interested in joining another sub-group to let them know. He indicated in discussion
181 they would like each proclamation lead to come up with a paragraph of what the
182 proclamation is about because they are anticipating in the future going out to the
183 community with a table of information on what the proclamation is about.

184
185 Mr. Brooks reviewed the monthly proclamations and who are leads for them.

186
187 Chair Palmquist explained on the Youth Engagement and Outreach work plan item
188 Mr. Brooks, Vice Chair James and herself will be meeting with Dr. Lake in May to
189 talk about all things dealing with youth engagement. They will be discussing the
190 Essay Contest, talking through what kind of events that are going on in the school that
191 the Commission can be a part of, how to recruit Youth Commissioners, how to keep
192 students engaged in what the City is doing. She indicated she will bring information
193 back to the Commission after the meeting and then the sub-group will start meeting
194 more beginning in the Summer to prep for Fall to get in the schools.

195
196 Youth Commissioner Park asked if there will still be a flyer to advertise for Youth
197 Commission spots in the City.

198
199 Mr. Brooks indicated that was something that was requested and he can work at
200 getting that raised on the priority list to get that to the Youth Commissioners.

201
202 Commissioner Becker explained there has not been a sub-group meeting on
203 Community Outreach but she did meet with Mr. Yunke and Mr. Brooks today and her
204 intention is to follow-up with the sub-group after the meeting.

205
206 Vice Chair James reviewed the HRIEC flier he put together.

207
208 Mr. Brooks thanked Vice Chair James for making up the flier. He asked the
209 Commission if there was anything they thought was missing and what is something
210 really important to all of them that they want the rest of the community to know. He
211 asked if there is any important information missing to let him know so that staff can
212 get it included.

213
214 Commissioner Allen thought for something like this the public should know when
215 meetings are taking place and he did not know what the City uses for contact
216 anymore but that should be included as well.

217
218 Commissioner Macomber indicated her first impression is that there are a lot of
219 words on the page so maybe Community Relations could come up with a way to
220 make it look kind of like an info graphic and divide the language into thirds, maybe
221 even a circle would work. She also thought a QR Code would be handy to have on
222 this as well.

223

224 Mr. Brooks thought under the contact information there could be the general HRIEC
225 email address as well as staff email so people can contact the City easier.

226
227 Chair Palmquist thought it will be interesting to see if people will start to send the
228 HRIEC more informational items as well.

229
230 Vice Chair James agreed with the Commission to make the flier more visually
231 appealing without too many words. He thought some of the wording could also be
232 reduced if possible.

233
234 Commissioner Becker reviewed the Older Adult Month Proclamation that the sub-
235 group went through. She indicated the group is trying to find ways to make this an
236 actionable proclamation. The group thought something could be started to get the
237 community engaged in the month. She was proposing to create an audio library of
238 adults who are older than sixty in the community. She thought it would be a really
239 nice way of getting people engaged in the community. It would also create a deeper
240 community connection and provide historical reference which she thought would be
241 really cool. She thought this would be a way to build trust in the community.

242
243 Commissioner Becker indicated the proposed process would be to hang fliers at some
244 of the senior living facilities, schools, libraries and businesses. The participants could
245 sign up via a Calendly schedule, when it is convenient for them and the interviewer
246 will coordinate location and safety precautions for the participants. She noted the
247 audio interviews will be edited and available via the Roseville website and maybe
248 Nine North and the library.

249
250 Commissioner Macomber indicated one of the things that struck her was that the City
251 has an active and well-funded historical society which would be a good place to meet
252 for interviews and also might be a great place to keep the stories.

253
254 Commissioner Becker indicated if everyone was in agreement with this she would
255 like to get this started.

256
257 **c. Discussion on HRIEC Participation at Juneteenth**

258 Chair Palmquist asked for comments on how the HRIEC can participate at
259 Juneteenth.

260
261 Mr. Brooks explained the City is partnering with Do Good Roseville and M Health
262 Fairview. For the first time they have actually offered to actually invest in this event
263 and the hope is to grow that investment and grow the event within the community.
264 This is a four-hour event from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 19th. There will
265 be some entertainment at the event. There will be a DJ, a dance troop and a singer, or
266 course, all black performers. There will also be food and representation from the
267 community, in terms of organizations and businesses. The City will be present as
268 well. The Police and Fire Departments will be there and he is trying to get

269 information from Community Development in terms of the Land Trust Program and
270 home loan programs. This is also the perfect opportunity for the HRIEC to be present
271 as well. In terms of the City, it has offered to provide the space, pair this event with
272 the summer concert series through Parks and Recreation. Any sort of volunteers that
273 are needed will also be provided as well as the Community Relations Department for
274 audio and video needs.

275
276 Mr. Brooks indicated he put this item on the agenda to make the Commission aware
277 of this and seek ways the HRIEC can become engaged. He noted the event will be at
278 Central Park by the Amphitheater and JC shelter.

279
280 Commissioner Macomber indicated she will be there with League of Women Voters.

281
282 Vice Chair James asked for an update on a Citywide logo to use at events.

283
284 Mr. Brooks reviewed the progress with a Citywide logo. He indicated staff is trying to
285 get a more unified Citywide brand rather than different logos throughout the City. He
286 noted the HRIEC can have their own HRIEC branded items.

287
288 Commissioner Peju thanked Mr. Brooks for the work being done.

289
290 Chair Palmquist thought it would be nice to have some swag to hand out to the kids at
291 events as well as having HRIEC branded items for the Commission.

292
293 Chair Palmquist thought there should be a sign-up sheet for shifts and also plan out
294 what the Commission will do at the table while at the event. She wondered if the
295 Commission should have contact sheets for information on groups as well.

296
297 **Other New Business or Reports**

298 **a. Staff updates Report**

299 Equity and Inclusion Manager Brooks reported on the following:

- 300 • SREAP Update
- 301 • Staff IAP2 Public Participation Training
- 302 • Community Visioning
- 303 • Proposed Tenant Notification Ordinance
- 304 • Roseville Lutheran Church-Racial Justice and Healing Event Planning
- 305 • Hybrid Meetings – Public Health Pandemic Declaration Update

306
307 **Announcements**

308 Mr. Brooks explained there was a request from Vice Chair James to have a meeting with MAC
309 to figure out what the group is doing and how the HRIEC should be connected with them. The
310 MAC does not have a formal structure in the same way that the HRIEC does in terms of Chair
311 and Vice Chair so Tim is working on the restructuring of the MAC group and figuring out what
312 their direction is. Tim or some other representative from the MAC will be present at the next
313 HRIEC meeting for that discussion.

314

315 Vice Chair James indicated he attended the Local Human Rights Commission meeting put on by
316 the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. The information was not really relevant to what the
317 HRIEC does but they did discuss the process of getting students that are homeless and ID card
318 because they cannot access services without some form of ID.

319

320 Commissioner Djevi asked if the Commission wanted to bring back discussion about what the
321 commentator talked about in public comment. He thought this should be placed on a future
322 meeting.

323

324 Mr. Brooks indicated if the Commission wanted to discuss this at a future agenda he thought the
325 soonest it could be done would be June. He wondered if the Commission wanted to discuss this
326 amongst themselves or should the commentator be brought back for a more formal presentation.

327

328 Commissioner Peju thought this should be discussed.

329

330 Commissioner Allen thought the hope was that the resolution would be sent to the Commission
331 for review before a presentation is made.

332

333 The Commission concurred.

334

335 **Future Agenda Items**

336 a. MAC Discussion

337 b. Work Plan review

338 c. Juneteenth

339

340 **Adjournment**

341

342 Chair Palmquist adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

343

344 Respectfully submitted,

345

346 Sue Osbeck

347 *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*