

Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission
Meeting Minutes
DRAFT – October 19, 2022 - DRAFT

Commissioners Present: Amanda Becker, Etienne Djevi, Richard James, David Sindiga, Kathryn Macomber, Laura Palmquist and Adepeju Solarin (Peju).

Youth Commissioners: None

Commissioners Absent: Keith Allen (excused)

Staff Present: Thomas Brooks, Equity and Inclusion Manager

Mr. Brooks noted Commission Paul Haas resigned from the HRIEC.

Call to Order/Roll Call

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

Approve Agenda

Commissioner James moved and Commissioner Sindiga seconded a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

None.

Commission Response to Community Issues

None.

Approve Minutes

a. August 17, 2022 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission

Commissioner Peju moved and Commissioner Djevi seconded a motion to approve the August 17, 2022 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

a. Meet Youth Commissioner Applicant, Jonathan Mamo

Postponed due to Youth Commissioner not being at the meeting.

b. Update on Citywide Community Visioning Project with Zan Associates

Ms. Bridget Norland, Director of Education, made a presentation to the Commission on the Citywide Community Visioning Project.

Commissioner Sindiga asked how Zan Associates is going to do everything presented.

Ms. Norland explained on the back of the flier there are eight aspirations divided into categories which she will review with the Commission. She noted at the events there was a big matrix which was broken down by aspirations and asked the community what it can do, what can the resident do and what can the City do around each of these. She asked the Commission to think globally about the three questions on the hand out she gave to the Commission. She explained the first question asked is if the Commissioners had a magic wand, what would each change for the future. She indicated the second question was to picture themselves in Roseville 20 years in the future and what does each Commissioner see. The third question is Roseville is a diverse and dynamic community with wonderful places to live, work, and play, what does each Commissioner enjoy about Roseville. She asked each Commissioner to pick one and discuss the question.

Commissioner Sindiga explained he picked question two, what would he change if he wanted to see the City of Roseville different. He explained he always tells people that Rosedale Mall is larger than the Mall of America all combined because it is not just the Rosedale Mall but there are so many super malls all around it and the City makes it bigger with businesses that never quit from where they are. The one thing he did not like about the Rosedale Mall area is pedestrian crossings. He thought it is so bad. He greatest frustration is crossing from Har Mar Mall to Rosedale. He would like to have more, better connectivity for pedestrians. He also did not think there was a center point in the City for families and kids. He thought the City should have an aquarium or some center of interest for the kids. He would also like to see a nice child care center in the City as well.

Commissioner Macomber explained when she first moved to the City she was excited because it looked to her that she could take public transit to the train station, downtown Minneapolis because she loves Roseville for the small town feel and the proximity to a major metro area. She noted there was a bus stop at the end of her street where she could catch a bus but it only runs once or twice a day and only takes her to the mall where she can catch more buses but to go to the airport it would take over two hours, which is a long time. While it looked accessible, it was not. She would like to see more accessible mass transit that would be expensive at first but with a ridership and more non-motorized traffic, walkability, all of these things that are very expensive but things she would like to see.

Commissioner Djevi agreed and thought the City has a lot of parks but would be nice to have one big area where kids can have a lot of activities like a waterpark and may generate some money for the City if it is well run and taken care of. The second thing he thought was connectivity. To be able to cross Hwy 36 without being in danger. It would be good to have something connect the south side to the north side of Roseville.

Ms. Norland indicated she heard from the student they would like a splash pad, swimming area and community center.

Commissioner Djevi thought community transit is something important in the City because there are some areas that the families cannot afford vehicles and need that transportation to get places.

Commissioner Macomber thought it would also be inclusive.

Commissioner Becker thought what was a little disappointing to her is right now there is a lot of big business in Roseville, big commercial stores and malls and she craves a more centralized area that is walkable in order to go to small businesses. There are some small businesses in the community but most have to be driven to and she thought the future is going back to a business community that is in more of a square for people to spend a whole day in a park, getting something to eat and connecting. She thought everything is so scattered which makes it hard to connect to others in the community.

Commissioner James indicated he has only lived in Roseville for four years but he is searching for local bakeries, not commercial diners but family diners and he has not found them. He thought for the business part, the City could hopefully take some action to encourage that and support that kind of thing.

Commissioner James thought there needs to be big focus onto seniors living in their homes and not in apartments or assisted living because especially with COVID, it is so easy for someone to be isolated and is really difficult to get out. If he was not on the Commission he would not know where in the City to meet people and make friends. He would like to see more senior outings and connections to the community.

Commissioner Djevi thought if they could, as a City, find a way to create an anti-loneliness program. Some type of program that would pair the elderly with a younger person so that wisdom from people of a certain age is transmitted to the younger folks and the muscle in the younger folks is used to help older folks.

Chair Palmquist thought sidewalks could be improved with additional crossings for access to other areas in the City. She also thought the City could create a space for small businesses and have a marketing budget to help the business grow. Help the small businesses thrive.

Commissioner James thought that getting the community to the seniors is more important than getting the seniors to the community.

Ms. Norland indicated on the back of the flier she passed out are the 2006 visioning aspirations and she asked the Commission to look at the topics and decide which are each Commissioners top priorities and describe why it is important to them and what it looks like.

Chair Palmquist indicated the two she chose were Physically and mentally active and healthy and engaged in community. Those two go together because in Roseville she would like to see an active arts community. She thought art is very healing and also engaging.

Commissioner Djevi explained he chose number one, welcoming, inclusive, and respectful because this is part of why everyone got onto the Commission. For him, feeling welcome and feeling a part of the community means if he goes for a walk at night he does not look suspicious and that he does not get the police called on him for just looking suspicious. Being a part of the community and feeling like this is a welcoming community is important to him. He also chose safety and security as his second one because knowing the history of the violence against certain groups of people, safety and security have different flavors for different people. He thought everyone needs to be treated with respect.

Commissioner James indicated he picked the first one, welcoming, inclusive, and respectful and he also chose engaged community. Regarding the engaged community concept, he thought it was a term that has been thrown around and he thought if they want to get more information they need to have additional prompts or something for people to say this is what the City is looking for. Some framework for people to wrap their head around.

Commissioner Becker explained she was thinking the word “engaged” also touches upon being extroverted or introverted. Having to be outside does not necessarily mean a person is engaged either so she agreed that the word can be confusing. She wondered what the word “engaged” meant. Does it mean there will be some type of programming and how does it look to them. She wondered what their definition of engagement is.

Commissioner James thought there was a distinction between local engagement and geographical community engagement. He thought this may need to be broken down into two different categories to be discussed.

Ms. Norland thought knowing there is an elderly person or a person that is single on the street or new to the Country, there could be a buddy system which is also an inclusive thing and a safety thing.

Commissioner Sindiga thought all were good points. He indicated he chose engaged community. He thought there were many matrix to consider. He also chose housing developments and he wondered if there were houses that met the community standards and if the houses are affordable. He thought there has to be some affordable houses in the community. He thought the City was lacking in the housing area and that is not good. The City has allowed big companies to come in and buy all of the apartments and he wondered why the City cannot make an Ordinance prohibiting that. He indicated the City needs affordable townhomes and starter homes that people can afford and he did not think the City was there yet.

Ms. Norland indicated that builds having folks with good housing helps everyone. It helps the whole community for that to happen.

Commissioner Peju indicated she was not sure because that part would be tough because she thought the City has asked residents what things they like about Roseville and one thing mentioned was proximity and most people who are from the Twin Cities area do not go the Mall of America, unless from that area, most go to Rosedale Center. Something not fully recommended but is useful for insights is online Nextdoor. There has not been the best comments on there but there is something insightful about all of those comments. She thought the City is losing that community stuff. Har Mar is dying out and she wondered if that is an opportunity for the decision makers to review that area and a lot of the buses go that route as well so there would not be a large expense talked about on the front end but may be a place for community gathering. She wondered if there was some sort of measurable thing that would not at least upset people too much. That is an area she was thinking about.

Commissioner Becker picked welcoming, inclusive, and respectful and she also found herself circling environment and sustainability. She thought what is really important is that all of the aspirational things all depend on a mind shift in the community. This is a very individualist society in this Country and in order to get people's minds to shift there needs to be a long game played in any community that wants to do this and sustainability is not necessarily something the current community gets the benefit of seeing in the next ten to twenty years but the youth will benefit from it. She thought environment is very important because it is the air quality, a peace of mind, mental health and being able to walk in the neighborhoods and she thought environment is key to any community. In addition to that, the topic that keeps coming up is the idea of a community center. She thought the idea of the community center, a centralized area, is going to have to be in the vision of a long game for Roseville because she did not think people in this next generation are going to change their mindset and suddenly become engaged because the City is encouraging everyone to. She thought it is going to have to be an environmental shift that makes people move differently in their community. She thought the idea of welcoming, inclusive and respectful, is that if you welcome people the other side of that is you show continued respect and that includes noise and garbage and environment and how everyone treats each other in

the shared spaces. She thought without having a shared space, truly, people lose sight of that.

Ms. Norland reviewed with the Commission different groups her company has talked to about the visioning in the City. She indicated the groups may have different visions which her company is trying to capture.

Commissioner Macomber explained she also picked welcoming, inclusive, and respectful. She also picked transportation infrastructure, especially when she saw technology infrastructure. She indicated the City has a digital divide where there is such a diverse community that there could be different types of translation used. She thought one thing that COVID has taught them is there is a lot of available technology that had not been utilized to the extent that it could have and it has transformed the way everyone lives and works in a way that probably would not have happened for another twenty years if COVID did not happen. The idea of how Roseville can support equity there to and help everyone have access to technology.

Commissioner Djevi reviewed with the Commission another meeting he had been in where the County was discussing this and trying to make access available to everyone who currently does not have a device to use and he thought it may be something the City could look into.

Ms. Norland completed her presentation to the Commission. The Commission appreciated the discussion and asked Ms. Norland to come back with updates.

Other New Business or Reports

a. Staff Updates Report

Equity and Inclusion Manager Brooks reported on the following:

- SREAP updates
- Workplan updates – Essay Contest and Proclamations
 - o Essay Contest planning
 - o Commission injection in the School
- Commission recruitment-Adult & Youth (Ongoing for Commissions)
 - o Youth recruitment with the Roseville Schools

Announcements

Future Agenda Items

- a.** Community events discussion and the Commissions role in them
- b.** Commission injection in the Roseville Schools

Adjournment

Chair Palmquist adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

272 Respectfully submitted,
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274 Sue Osbeck
275 *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*