

1 **Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **DRAFT – October 19, 2022 - DRAFT**
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6 **Commissioners Present:** Amanda Becker, Etienne Djevi, Richard James, David Sindiga,
7 Kathryn Macomber, Laura Palmquist and Adepeju Solarin (Peju).
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9 **Youth Commissioners:** None

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11 **Commissioners Absent:** Keith Allen (excused)
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13 **Staff Present:** Thomas Brooks, Equity and Inclusion Manager
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15 Mr. Brooks noted Commission Paul Haas resigned from the HRIEC.
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17 **Call to Order/Roll Call**
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19 The Human Rights, Inclusion, and Engagement Commission (HRIEC) meeting was called to
20 order at 6:30 p.m.
21

22 **Approve Agenda**
23

24 Commissioner James moved and Commissioner Sindiga seconded a motion to approve the
25 Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
26

27 **Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**
28

29 None.
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31 **Commission Response to Community Issues**
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33 None.
34

35 **Approve Minutes**
36

37 **a. August 17, 2022 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**
38

39 Commissioner Peju moved and Commissioner Djevi seconded a motion to approve the August
40 17, 2022 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission meeting minutes as presented.
41 Motion passed unanimously.
42

43 **New Business**
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45 **a. Meet Youth Commissioner Applicant, Jonathan Mamo**
46

47 Postponed due to Youth Commissioner not being at the meeting.

48

49 **b. Update on Citywide Community Visioning Project with Zan Associates**

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

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

55

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

68

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

80

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

91

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

98
99 Ms. Norland indicated she heard from the student they would like a splash pad,
100 swimming area and community center.

101
102 Commissioner Djevi thought community transit is something important in the City
103 because there are some areas that the families cannot afford vehicles and need that
104 transportation to get places.

105
106 Commissioner Macomber thought it would also be inclusive.

107
108 Commissioner Becker thought what was a little disappointing to her is right now
109 there is a lot of big business in Roseville, big commercial stores and malls and she
110 craves a more centralized area that is walkable in order to go to small businesses.
111 There are some small businesses in the community but most have to be driven to and
112 she thought the future is going back to a business community that is in more of a
113 square for people to spend a whole day in a park, getting something to eat and
114 connecting. She thought everything is so scattered which makes it hard to connect to
115 others in the community.

116
117 Commissioner James indicated he has only lived in Roseville for four years but he is
118 searching for local bakeries, not commercial diners but family diners and he has not
119 found them. He thought for the business part, the City could hopefully take some
120 action to encourage that and support that kind of thing.

121
122 Commissioner James thought there needs to be big focus onto seniors living in their
123 homes and not in apartments or assisted living because especially with COVID, it is
124 so easy for someone to be isolated and is really difficult to get out. If he was not on
125 the Commission he would not know where in the City to meet people and make
126 friends. He would like to see more senior outings and connections to the community.

127
128 Commissioner Djevi thought if they could, as a City, find a way to create an anti-
129 loneliness program. Some type of program that would pair the elderly with a younger
130 person so that wisdom from people of a certain age is transmitted to the younger folks
131 and the muscle in the younger folks is used to help older folks.

132
133 Chair Palmquist thought sidewalks could be improved with additional crossings for
134 access to other areas in the City. She also thought the City could create a space for
135 small businesses and have a marketing budget to help the business grow. Help the
136 small businesses thrive.

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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.

182
183 Commissioner Sindiga thought all were good points. He indicated he chose engaged
184 community. He thought there were many matrix to consider. He also chose housing
185 developments and he wondered if there were houses that met the community
186 standards and if the houses are affordable. He thought there has to be some
187 affordable houses in the community. He thought the City was lacking in the housing
188 area and that is not good. The City has allowed big companies to come in and buy all
189 of the apartments and he wondered why the City cannot make an Ordinance
190 prohibiting that. He indicated the City needs affordable townhomes and starter
191 homes that people can afford and he did not think the City was there yet.

192
193 Ms. Norland indicated that builds having folks with good housing helps everyone. It
194 helps the whole community for that to happen.

195
196 Commissioner Peju indicated she was not sure because that part would be tough
197 because she thought the City has asked residents what things they like about
198 Roseville and one thing mentioned was proximity and most people who are from the
199 Twin Cities area do not go the Mall of America, unless from that area, most go to
200 Rosedale Center. Something not fully recommended but is useful for insights is
201 online Nextdoor. There has not been the best comments on there but there is
202 something insightful about all of those comments. She thought the City is losing that
203 community stuff. Har Mar is dying out and she wondered if that is an opportunity for
204 the decision makers to review that area and a lot of the buses go that route as well so
205 there would not be a large expense talked about on the front end but may be a place
206 for community gathering. She wondered if there was some sort of measurable thing
207 that would not at least upset people too much. That is an area she was thinking about.

208
209 Commissioner Becker picked welcoming, inclusive, and respectful and she also found
210 herself circling environment and sustainability. She thought what is really important
211 is that all of the aspirational things all depend on a mind shift in the community. This
212 is a very individualist society in this Country and in order to get people's minds to
213 shift there needs to be a long game played in any community that wants to do this and
214 sustainability is not necessarily something the current community gets the benefit of
215 seeing in the next ten to twenty years but the youth will benefit from it. She thought
216 environment is very important because it is the air quality, a peace of mind, mental
217 health and being able to walk in the neighborhoods and she thought environment is
218 key to any community. In addition to that, the topic that keeps coming up is the idea
219 of a community center. She thought the idea of the community center, a centralized
220 area, is going to have to be in the vision of a long game for Roseville because she did
221 not think people in this next generation are going to change their mindset and
222 suddenly become engaged because the City is encouraging everyone to. She thought
223 it is going to have to be an environmental shift that makes people move differently in
224 their community. She thought the idea of welcoming, inclusive and respectful, is that
225 if you welcome people the other side of that is you show continued respect and that
226 includes noise and garbage and environment and how everyone treats each other in

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

229
230 Ms. Norland reviewed with the Commission different groups her company has talked
231 to about the visioning in the City. She indicated the groups may have different
232 visions which her company is trying to capture.

233
234 Commissioner Macomber explained she also picked welcoming, inclusive, and
235 respectful. She also picked transportation infrastructure, especially when she saw
236 technology infrastructure. She indicated the City has a digital divide where there is
237 such a diverse community that there could be different types of translation used. She
238 thought one thing that COVID has taught them is there is a lot of available
239 technology that had not been utilized to the extent that it could have and it has
240 transformed the way everyone lives and works in a way that probably would not have
241 happened for another twenty years if COVID did not happen. The idea of how
242 Roseville can support equity there to and help everyone have access to technology.

243
244 Commissioner Djevi reviewed with the Commission another meeting he had been in
245 where the County was discussing this and trying to make access available to everyone
246 who currently does not have a device to use and he thought it may be something the
247 City could look into.

248
249 Ms. Norland completed her presentation to the Commission. The Commission
250 appreciated the discussion and asked Ms. Norland to come back with updates.

251

252 **Other New Business or Reports**

253 **a. Staff Updates Report**

254 Equity and Inclusion Manager Brooks reported on the following:

- 255 • SREAP updates
- 256 • Workplan updates – Essay Contest and Proclamations
 - 257 ○ Essay Contest planning
 - 258 ○ Commission injection in the School
- 259 • Commission recruitment-Adult & Youth (Ongoing for Commissions)
 - 260 ○ Youth recruitment with the Roseville Schools

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262 **Announcements**

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264 **Future Agenda Items**

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

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268 **Adjournment**

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

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272 Respectfully submitted,

273

274 Sue Osbeck

275 *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*