

**Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2019**

Commissioners Present: Cat Beltmann, Monica Bolinger, Etienne Djevi, Ahmed Hassan, Grace Lee, Kathryn Macomber, and Lauren Peterson

Youth Commissioners: Acer Iverson

Commissioners Absent: Keith Allen, Youth Commissioner Elizabeth Hansel (excused)

Staff Present: Rebecca Olson, Assistant City Manager

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

Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

None

Approve Minutes

a. May 15, 2019 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission

Commissioner Peterson indicated some changes to the Minutes. Line 204, change “thought” to “suggested”. Line 415-416 change “Commissioner Peterson indicated she is for community engagement and outreach ~~and~~ but it needs to make sense”.

Commissioner Peterson moved and Commissioner Macomber seconded a motion to approve the May 15, 2019 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission meeting minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lee arrived at 6:33 p.m.

Receive Reports

a. Close Before You Doze

Assistant City Manager Olson reported the Fire Department is looking to implement a new initiative for the community called Close before you Doze. The public safety

campaign encourages everyone to close all the doors in their homes each night before bed.

Battalion Chief Halverson made a presentation to the Commission on the Community Initiative “Close Before You Doze”. He indicated he met with Ms. Olson and wondered if the Commission would be interested in helping with guiding him on engagement topics.

Ms. Olson stated this project is at the very beginning stage of planning and thought it was great the Commission is in it at the beginning part of it and to offer any feedback, thoughts or suggestions.

Battalion Chief Halverson stated on the Fire Department website some of this will be interactive in order to gear people towards the website. He noted the Fire Department does a lot of social media as well in order to get the message out, but some people are not on social media and some people cannot come to the station to talk about fire prevention. He indicated the Fire Department needed help in getting the information out to the different communities within the City.

Chair Beltmann asked what the Fire Department’s timeline is in terms of wanting to be ready to launch in the community.

Battalion Chief Halverson stated with phase one, the social media part is already done and ordering all the swag for handouts is complete. Phase two which is meeting with city and commissions to try to develop an action plan on who to target and how to get the message out appropriately. He would also like help in building the program. He thought it would be fun to build the program with the Commissioners. He explained there are not many Fire Departments really doing this in the North Metro so he would like to set an example for other cities.

Commissioner Lee asked if this was a national campaign.

Battalion Chief Halverson stated this is a pretty new national campaign and through Underwriting Laboratories (UL). UL has done a lot of testing on this and have shown that just shutting a door can save lives if there is a fire. He indicated that doors are rated to protect from fire for thirty minutes along with drywall and other things that can protect people from fire in order to get out.

Chair Beltmann asked if there was a process for getting material translated into the appropriate languages.

Battalion Chief Halverson indicated he was not sure about the process behind getting the material translated. This was discussed a little bit with the person who oversees this nationally and he was told the information was only available in English and Spanish. He wondered if it would be easier to do some “train the trainer” sessions focusing on people

who could then assist with interpretation. He stated he was trying to find a balance and was looking for the Commission's feedback.

Commissioner Macomber stated Battalion Chief Halverson mentioned a YouTube video and she assumed some are animated. She asked if it is possible for someone to overdub the voice or to put in subtitles. The question would be if there is permission to do that.

Battalion Chief Halverson stated he could ask and see if that would be possible.

Commissioner Macomber stated when Battalion Chief Halverson talked about social media, she assumed he was talking about Twitter and Facebook but in some communities, things like WhatsApp, text messaging, is the more preferred communication method. One of the things would be in asking community leaders, those asked to train the trainers or looking at translation, what is the preferred mode that community uses.

Battalion Chief Halverson thought that would be great to know.

Commissioner Lee suggested to have a picture of someone closing the door and sleeping on the website. A picture can get the point across without any words.

Battalion Chief Halverson pointed out on the website a responder toolbox where a lot of videos and pictures are regarding that.

Commissioner Macomber thought it could be like a comic book or kids picture book with no words, just pictures.

Commissioner Lee wondered if pictures from the cartoon video could be printed for the communities that do not have the translated materials available to them.

Chair Beltmann thought this fit with the work the Commission wants to do more broadly, she thought having resources to get things translated into the languages that are present in the community is huge and even if it is not everything but some key documents, she felt that was a must. Focusing on the online stuff is important but she thought with printed material it would reach a broader audience.

Battalion Chief Halverson noted the Fire Department is going to try to make a door prop, one side will show the door at one thousand degrees and charred and the other side at one hundred degrees. That would be a very helpful visual tool for kids.

Chair Beltmann wondered process wise if it would work to take any initial thought the Commission has and can circle back to in July for a more thoughtful discussion.

Battalion Chief Halverson stated that would be perfect and by then he should have something a little more stamped out and should have a lot of the questions answered. He

was thinking of getting social media to build the program this summer and really roll out this fall to the community. He noted Fire Prevention Month is October.

Commissioner Lee stated there are a lot of tournaments and community events in the summer more so than in the fall. If Battalion Chief Halverson went to some of those events, she could introduce him to some people that could help to serve as an interpreter there because if he waits until fall, he might lose out on some big events, at least for the crime community.

Commissioner Bolinger suggested stopping by the puppet wagon during the summer and there are a lot of families that go with different economic levels. The puppet wagon goes to all the different parks which then Battalion Chief Halverson could hit the different communities.

Chair Beltmann also thought bringing fliers to the movies in the park events to hand out.

Battalion Chief Halverson thought all the suggestions were great ideas.

Ms. Olson wondered if Battalion Chief Halverson had any target audiences, he was hoping to reach that the Commission could help with.

Battalion Chief Halverson stated he sort of knew but was also a question he had for the Commission. He wondered, as a Commission, what the main target areas would be to focus on.

Commissioner Peterson thought families would be important.

Commissioner Lee thought families with younger kids because she thought teenagers might close their door more than the younger kids.

Commissioner Djevi added seniors because the seniors are prone to leave their doors open as well. Senior living apartments.

Chair Beltmann added the group adults without children because those people tend to leave their doors open more. She wondered if it would be helpful if the Commission used this as a test case for the work the Commission is doing in terms of outreach and if the Commissioners come back to the next meeting and carry this through on the engagement part of the discussion.

Battalion Chief Halverson indicated that would be perfect.

Commissioner Bolinger thought at the last meeting there was talk about using the census type information to help the Commission reach out and engage but she thought this is an easier contact where the census might be harder to communicate to the communities. She

thought this would be a great vehicle to use in the Commission's own engagement efforts as well. She thought a partnership would be beneficial for both sides.

Commission Djevi stated another thing that could be helpful would be if the information could be provided showing the areas in the City that might be more prone to fire hazards.

Battalion Chief Halverson stated it would be multi-family, anything less than three stories would be multi-family buildings and do not have a sprinkler system inside of it. He stated those buildings are the highest risk where most fires occur because those do not have a sprinkler system in them. He noted Roseville has a lot of those style of apartments.

Commissioner Lee stated those buildings are the most hazardous but wondered where most of the fires occur in Roseville.

Battalion Chief Halverson stated he would need to pull the data, but he thought it was a mix between residential and apartment.

Chair Beltmann asked if the Commission could get more information on where in the City most fires occur, which communities. She indicated if Battalion Chief Halverson has any information to forward it to Ms. Olson and she will get the information to the Commission for the July meeting.

The Commission thanked Battalion Chief Halverson for coming to the Commission with this item.

Youth Commissioner Report

Youth Commissioner Iverson reported the book club had a poor turnout with zero attendance. He was not sure why, but he started a draft on this project for whomever takes over.

New Business

a. Debrief From Joint City Council Meeting

Chair Beltmann provided a recap of the Joint City Council meeting with the Commission.

Chair Beltmann stated from her perspective, the high level take away was on the Best Practice Document, the City Council wanted the Commission to keep working on the document to get it finalized and work with staff on that. She thought one helpful take away from the meeting was that the Council did give the Commission direction on some of the work and allowing a few people to work on information between meetings and bringing back to the full Commission for further discussion and approval. She thought that will give the Commission an opportunity with all this work to spread some of the work out and get things done a little more quickly.

Chair Beltmann indicated on the engagement work the City Council had a lot of feedback. Overall it was positive. The Council gave the Commission direction to move forward with identifying organizations, individuals, and agencies that could be community contacts and where the Commissioners have relationships it is ok to move forward to make those contacts. She thought the Commission needed to talk about what that looks like.

Chair Beltmann stated the City Council did have some specific engagement events and activities that have come up in the past that the Council asked the Commission to circle back to and discuss.

Chair Beltmann stated the other big thing with the proclamation work the Commission did, the next big proclamation project will be Hispanic Heritage month and the Council asked the Commission to get moving on planning it in order to bring a recommendation to the Council in July to be approved in order to move it forward with planning.

Commissioner Peterson felt the meeting went well overall and the feedback was positive for a lot of items. She thought it was helpful the Commission had some specific questions for the Council to get feedback on.

Commissioner Djevi thought it was a good meeting and the Commission received clarification on some things that the Commission can and cannot do. He thought what transpired personally to him was that the City Council is open minded about the Commission engaging and trying to find the contact people the Commission has been talking about for some time.

Commissioner Bolinger agreed and thought the Commission has some actual direction and can go out and talk to people, not necessarily represent the City of Roseville, but representing the Commission and to start the relationships. She stated the Council also gave a little leeway on when to hand things over to staff as well.

Chair Beltmann stated as a Commission the Commissioners can work on tasks in pairs outside of the meeting.

Commissioner Hassan wondered which way this is going with the individuals and organizations.

Chair Beltmann thought where the Commission is at right now a list should start to be built of potential contacts in the community and develop the list of individuals and contacts and the Commission needs to figure out what the outreach will look like. It is not necessarily deciding projects that the Commission is bringing to the communities or asking them to come in and suggest projects, the Commission is still developing the list and having conversations.

Commissioner Djevi thought the idea behind reaching out to organizations is that individuals can move but organizations tend to stick around. It is going to be a combination of reaching out to people in the community as well as organizations in the community but hopefully if individuals move the organization that is still around, those relationships will still exist even if the people are not there.

Commissioner Hassan thought that made sense, but his question was how the Commission engages and starts the project.

Chair Beltmann did not think the Commission was there yet so the engagement project is the Commission's work, the Best Practices Document being put together and then developing the contact list. She thought it is both. When the Commission gets requests from City staff on help on a project the Commission helps to brainstorm and uses the contact list to contact people from different communities asking for thoughts and opinions on certain projects the City would be working on.

Ms. Olson thought the purpose right now in identifying the contacts is to build the relationships, outside of that there is no purpose. The City wants to have people that the City has a relationship within some manner because down the line there is going to be opportunities where either the community brings something to the City, or the City wants feedback on something that the community can provide. She noted right now the purpose is relationship building and not a specific engagement project or program or policy.

Chair Beltmann stated one of the concerns the Commission had at the Council meeting is the Commission does not want to make assumptions about what communities need or want to see from the City and so by developing this list and developing the contacts that will open up the relationship that the City can start to develop and find out what communities are looking for.

Commissioner Hassan asked when the Commission says Best Practices Document is it guidelines on how the Commission apply the survey or future engagement. He wondered how the Commission is going to design the Best Practices Document if the Commission does not have information of the different communities. He stated feedback is always important.

Chair Beltmann stated the Best Practices Document is in the packet and will be discussed later in the agenda and is based on research around engagement. For example, when a project is started to identify why the City is wanting to reach out to the community. She wondered if the City wants to inform the community or get input or collaborate with the community. She stated the document is tools for staff to use as projects are kicked off.

Ms. Olson indicated the Best Practices Document is a framework document and part of it is getting the feedback from the community at the beginning and letting the

community know what their decision making ability is, whether it is the City already made a decision and the community is being informed or the City is talking to the community because the City wants the communities help in designing this.

Commissioner Lee thought as the Best Practices Document is being finalized community members could be invited from the list the Commission is making and maybe present it to them and get the community members opinion on the document and get feedback that way and even base the document on the feedback.

Commissioner Macomber thought some of this, especially the framework is more designed to make sure that the department that is thinking about reaching out to a community has done their homework upfront and have thought through the engagement.

Chair Beltmann asked if the Commission could finish the debrief part of the meeting to move onto the next agenda item where this topic could be discussed further.

Ms. Olson stated the topics that the Council asked the Commission to look at stemmed from one of the workplans back in 2017 that really kind of got put on hold in order to work on this engagement project. What the Council was looking for was not that this group does any work on these specific items but whether this Commission felt that those items are something the City should pursue. The Council was looking for a recommendation on those.

Ms. Olson stated in an attempt to try to simply this so it does not get too in-depth was for each project to do the impact analysis of what is the purpose behind the project, what is the City hoping to achieve with it and who is the targeted audience and look through some of the levels of participation the City is hoping for and then make that recommendation to the Council.

Commissioner Peterson stated she was on the Commission when the items were brought forward in 2017 and were brought forward by other Commissioners who felt passionate about the projects. She thought it was fine to do an analysis but her concern is if the Commission is not the ones actually doing it and it is staff directed, she would prefer the projects come to the Commission like the Fire Department did rather than the Commission telling the Council to do these projects. She indicated if there is no driving force behind it then the project will just get lost.

Chair Beltmann thought there was a larger component of thinking through how the City can more effectively engage people and the different activities and events and she thought this fit as part of that conversation. She wondered if this was something the Commission circles back to in August when the project is further along, and this is kept as potential recommendations for activities just like the proclamations and essay contest. She thought there was a whole suite of potential activities and these items can be included in that evaluation.

Ms. Olson thought the idea of having the Commission touch on the bigger, broader engagement and then coming back to these projects and evaluating them to see if the projects would work in the City.

b. Engagement Project Next Steps

Chair Beltmann stated over the past several months, the Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission has been working on a two-prong approach to the directive provided by the City Council at the joint meeting.

Commissioner Peterson asked what Chair Beltmann thought the tasks should consist of.

Chair Beltmann noted there were five tasks she had on her list for the group to do. On the best practice side, if there is someone who is interested in the short-term in working with her on drafting it out and building out the best practice document. That way it can be determined what pieces needed to be pulled out to hand to different parts of the Commission. The second bucket of work would be to start to compile the contact list. This is not outreach yet but getting a list of organizations and individuals going. That work would come back to the July meeting to have a more robust conversation on next steps for engagement. Additional work that she could see needing to be done at this point between now and July is planning Hispanic Heritage Month activities. She noted for the entire Commission to start brainstorming on the Fire Department project based on the earlier presentation.

Commissioner Peterson thought it would be useful if all the Commissioners thought of the Fire Department project based on feedback earlier but maybe two people could take the lead on that and work a little closely with Battalion Chief Halverson on developing a plan.

Ms. Olson thought if there could be brainstorming with the Battalion Chief but making sure that comes back before the Commission for the actual planning and everyone can have input.

Chair Beltmann thought there was a lot that needed to be done between the June and July meetings, maybe all the Commissioners could brainstorm on ideas and in July have two people work with Battalion Chief Halverson to bring thoughts and ideas back to the August meeting.

Commissioner Peterson thought the Commission would be more active if there were two key core members driving that.

Commissioner Bolinger asked for clarification on the open meeting laws regarding groups working on projects outside of the meeting. She wondered if emails can be sent between Commissioners.

Ms. Olson stated she would rather have the information go through her because then it is easier for data practices and retention purposes and she would be happy to put it in the google doc or she can plug it into the google doc and make sure who ever is compiling information has it. Either way is fine, but it should come through her instead of individuals emailing each other.

Chair Beltmann asked if there was a document on google drive that the entire Commission can access.

Ms. Olson stated everyone on the Commission can use the google doc and it is public so anyone can request access to the documents. She noted when collecting personal data from sources those people need to be told that it will be put into a google document and is public information.

Commissioner Peterson stated she has a contact list of all the churches in Roseville and could dig that up. She would also start with more public knowledge items that are easily found on the internet and reach out to some of the organizations. The individual piece is a little greyer because the Commission would want to protect those individual's privacy.

Chair Beltmann suggested keeping the google doc for public organizations and keep individuals private.

Ms. Olson stated as a rule of thumb, any data or information that is created by the City or Commissions is public so any list that is created would be public.

Chair Beltmann asked if anyone was interested in working with her on the best practice and community outreach.

Commissioner Macomber indicated she would be interested.

Chair Beltmann asked if there was someone who wanted to take the lead on the Community Outreach list. She thought most of the Commission could provide input on this, but she wondered if there was one or two people who want to take the lead on starting the process.

Commissioner Lee thought there was going to be a google doc and send the information to Ms. Olson.

Ms. Olson stated a google doc can be made and everyone could have access to input the information into the document. If a Commissioner is not comfortable with doing that the information can be emailed to her but she thought, there should be someone who is in charge or organizing that list.

Commissioner Djevi indicated he could work on the list with Commissioner Peterson seeing that Commissioner Peterson already has a list of all the churches in Roseville.

Commissioner Peterson stated she would be happy to help with the list.

Chair Beltmann thought Commissioner Peterson had a lot on her plate already and maybe another Commissioner would want to help.

Commissioner Peterson indicated she did have time but could forward the list onto Ms. Olson if another Commission would want to work with Commissioner Djevi on this.

Commissioner Lee indicated she would work on this with Commission Djevi.

Chair Beltmann stated if Commissioners have ideas or contacts it can be populated on the spreadsheet or send it to Ms. Olson and Commissioner Lee and Djevi can look at ways of populating the list as well.

Commissioner Djevi asked if there could be a little break where different Commissioners have different ideas of engagement, open ended, where people propose ideas that might fall outside of the five things listed because people have ideas that could be translated into different projects that is outside of what is on the list.

Chair Beltmann stated there are a couple of questions at the end of the engagement document. She wondered if a google doc could be created with ideas that the Commission thinks would be good for engagement such as events or other things for engagement.

Commissioner Macomber wondered if existing events that gather potential audience pools so that the people the City is looking to reach is already there.

Chair Beltmann stated that was correct. It was those types of ideas plus the ideas that Councilmember Laliberte brought up at the previous Council meeting.

Commissioner Hassan thought a good idea would be to have rotating block parties within a community to engage the community better.

The Commission thought that was a good idea to add to the google doc.

Commissioner Djevi stated the City could try a Dinner with Mayor event as well. He noted some other cities have done this before.

Chair Beltmann thought those ideas were good to add to the list.

Commissioner Peterson asked Ms. Olson if there was a weekly staff report that went out to all the Department Heads of events that are going on in the City.

Ms. Olson indicated there was not. She noted the City Manager does a weekly report to the City Council and it is not really all the events but some of the highlights for that week or upcoming week.

Commissioner Peterson thought it might be a good idea to update staff and the Council on events that are going on.

Chair Beltmann stated that is part of the Engagement Document.

Ms. Olson stated the staff has weekly communication meetings and representatives from each department come and share their information.

Commissioner Peterson thought it would be helpful for the Commission to get event information in order to go out and meeting community members.

Ms. Olson indicated the City did have that information on the City website calendar and might be a good resource.

Commissioner Peterson thought a link to that in the google doc would be nice for reference. She noted she was willing to sign up for some of the events in the coming months as a representative of the HRIEC. She wondered if any other Commissioners were willing to do that.

Chair Beltmann thought that is a part of the planning process once the Commission gets started on it.

Chair Beltmann reviewed the discussion and items that needed to be worked on before the July meeting.

c. Parade Planning Update

Chair Beltmann stated the parade is June 24th at 6:00 p.m. and as part of that the City Commissions walk in the parade. The HRIEC will be walking in the parade and along with that the LGBTQQIA+ community to highlight the Pride Month Proclamation. She indicated the meeting place is the high school parking lot. There will be signs and T-Shirts and candy to hand out.

Commissioner Peterson updated the Commission on the parade planning and noted the Commission should be at 5:45 p.m.

Commissioner Bolinger indicated she would be open to picking up the signs and candy for the parade and she will bring her wagon.

Ms. Olson stated the T-shirts have been ordered and will be delivered to the City on June 20th.

Commissioner Peterson asked if any Commissioners would be available to help her tie die the T-shirts on June 20th. She stated there are twenty Commissioners that have signed up to be in the parade and she would like to get them done Thursday night to bring back to Ms. Olson on Friday for pickup by the Commissioners.

Chair Beltmann asked if she held a tie die party at her house could it be noticed as public. She stated she was fine for people to come from the community to help tie die T-shirts.

Ms. Olson stated that could be done.

Commissioner Peterson and Bolinger indicated availability.

Chair Beltmann suggested 6:30, Thursday, June 20th at her home for anyone who wants to come and help tie die T-shirts.

Commissioner Peterson indicated she would coordinate with all the Commissioners for pickup of the T-shirts.

Ms. Olson shared the narratives for the LGBTQQIA+ group and the City of Roseville Commission that will be in the parade program.

d. Hispanic Heritage Month Programming

Chair Beltmann summarized that the Commission previously identified September's proclamation for Hispanic Heritage Month as one of the topics for pilot programming. At the joint meeting with Council on June 3, Council requested information on programming ideas be presented to them with enough time to review while still allowing a timeline to market/promote the activities.

Commissioner Bolinger stated after the City Council meeting and their concern with the planning of this she sent an email to Father Michael at St. Odelia's Church to see if the Commission can join forces to have at least one event. She noted she has not heard back from Father Michael and will follow up with him next week. She thought if there is going to be something that involves more Government or maybe a little unorthodox or uncomfortable, having it in a community environment where the community is already established and comfortable in is important. There was also discussion of showing the movie Coco outside, if possible. She thought it would be helpful to know how many events the Commission wants to do and is the Commission supposed to create some events and give them to other entities.

Commissioner Djevi stated there was a meeting on January 10th with the community and was a brainstorming session. He noted there were four people there from the

Hispanic community. He reviewed some of the ideas that came up at the meeting, one being the Coco animated movie. Another idea was to have discussion around immigration with the community and the City. Another idea was fun activities that could be done with adults and children and where those activities could happen. He stated there was supposed to be a follow up meeting with the community, but it never happened.

Commissioner Djevi stated he has talked to Cory from this department and he really likes the idea of having the movie at the OVAL.

Chair Beltmann stated the Commission needs to determine when a finalized plan should be brought to the City Council because the Council needs to approve any plan that is put together. She asked if a timeline could be determined. She thought a plan would need to be done and advertising would need to be started in early August.

Ms. Olson stated there are three meeting in July where the Commission could go before the City Council for approval. She stated if the Commission would want a report to go to Council for their July 22nd meeting, she would need something put together by Thursday morning, July 18th before that meeting to include in the Council packet.

Chair Beltmann thought this needed to go before the Council at the July 22nd meeting. She asked Commissioners Bolinger and Djevi if it would be helpful for the Commission to do some brainstorming at the meeting now or did the Commissioners want some time to get their ideas and thoughts together to bring back to the July meeting.

Commissioner Peterson thought Commissioners Bolinger and Djevi might want to get together and bring forward something to the Commission. If there are other groups that want to something, such as St. Odelia's Church, the Commission could partner with them. Partnering on the movie watching would need to be done as well. The Commission could take the lead on that and have conversations with other groups to see what those groups would want to do themselves and the Commission could help and provide some support for them.

Commissioner Bolinger indicated there was talk about doing a round table or panel discussion or something where the community gets some information. She thought maybe bringing in the Police Chief or City Council member and keep it informal. She wondered if something should be put together as to what the topics should be and then ask the Council's advice on who should be on that panel or just put it all together and let the Council make the decision.

Ms. Olson recommended bringing forward the idea to the Council and having some things in mind as to what the next steps might be incase the Council shows approval, but she would not plan it and then tell the Council the idea stating something is

already setup. She thought the Commission is going before the Council with enough time that the Council would expect it as an idea.

Commissioner Peterson thought having some key examples of the place and idea would be good to bring forward for the Council. She thought the Commission did not want this to be open ended for the Council, but the Commission did want the Council feedback.

Chair Beltmann stated if the Commission wants to bring the community together with the City, she would caution putting together something serious or heavy because she thought that would be separating the Hispanic Community. She thought a movie event would help to bring people out and different communities together in the City. She suggested adding food and music which would bring in a diverse group of people.

Commissioner Bolinger agreed.

Commissioner Djevi proposed circling back to the people Commissioner Bolinger and himself met with to get ideas.

The Commission agreed.

e. Discuss 2019-2020 Essay Contest

Chair Beltmann summarized that in the past, the HRIEC sponsored an Essay Contest for middle school students. At this meeting, the Commission should decide on a topic, and in July, brainstorm essay questions for that topic with the intent to finalize the question in August.

Ms. Olson stated she would like the Commission to brainstorm on what the essay contest topic could be based on and then at the next meeting to come back with some suggested essay questions surrounding those topics and narrow it down to what the Commission wants to ask.

Commissioner Peterson suggested gun violence as a topic because it is big out there now.

Youth Commissioner Iverson thought an essay question about privacy or internet information, something like that.

Commissioner Peterson suggested tying in something with social media.

Chair Beltmann stated kids are dealing more with depression and anxiety because of social media. Maybe the mental health effects of social media would be an interesting topic.

Commissioner Djevi stated he has been thinking a lot about patriotism and what it means to be a patriot.

Commissioner Peterson indicated she liked that topic.

Chair Beltmann stated it would be interesting to see the civic side of things, kids and engagement.

Ms. Olson recapped the list of possible essay questions the Commission liked.

Commissioner Peterson stated she would vote for gun violence, school safety and the patriotism as the two topics and the Commissioners bring back possible questions for each of the topics and discuss at the next meeting.

Chair Beltmann stated her only concern with doing the gun violence topic is not knowing people's situation and if that was a topic that could be triggering for folks who may have experience with gun violence. She noted that knowing the community is diverse and people may have different experience with gun violence which could lead to good essays but is it a lot to ask of a middle schooler to write about.

Commissioner Lee stated the previous essay was regarding bullying so she did not think a gun violence essay would be worse.

Commissioner Bolinger knew there were schools that taught about social media, internet and privacy and what that means to put things out there and is talked about in almost every grade. It would be interesting to see different aspects of this as well.

Commissioner Macomber thought it was good thing to think about if the questions were framed appropriately.

Youth Commissioner Iverson stated he liked the patriotism subject a lot but thought that was a lot to ask for middle schoolers.

Chair Beltmann stated the question could be centered around what it means to be a good citizen.

Commissioner Lee stated a lot of residents are not citizens.

Chair Beltmann indicated the question could be "What does it mean to be a good community member" instead.

The Commission liked that.

Commissioner Peterson thought there could be an engagement piece with that as well.

The Commission decided to bring back ideas on gun violence, internet privacy and what it means to be a good community member.

Chair Beltmann stated because the essay contest is read in May and May being Mental Health Awareness Month the essay question might want to be one that is tied to that proclamation.

f. Indigenous People's Day Proclamation

Chair Beltmann summarized that the HRIEC presented their recommendation on city proclamations to the Council at the April 8th City Council meeting.

Commissioner Peterson noted that proclamation was handed to her by a former Commission member. She reviewed the Council changes that were made to the proclamation.

Ms. Olson stated in the first Whereas it states: "Since time immemorial Indigenous Nations have lived upon the land where our Nation and City now stand." After that meeting the Mayor and Councilmembers suggested some wording changes for that which would read "For longer than any other people, Indigenous People have lived upon the land where our Nation and City now stand." She thought there was also a small grammatical change later. She noted Commissioner Peterson's recommendations were under the first Whereas reads: "Indigenous People have lived upon the land where our Nation and City now stand long before their first contact with English settlers." And the third Whereas she took out the first sentence "American Indian People today face significant disparities that impact their safety, health, wellbeing, education, vitality and cultural preservation."

Commissioner Peterson indicated she did not know why she removed that. She stated the first sentence she changed there was some discussion about the recommendation and the wording was not exactly how the Commission felt was most appropriate so she went back and looked at other proclamations from other cities and that is where she got the first sentence from with the English settlers.

Chair Beltmann stated she loved it.

Ms. Olson asked in the third Whereas, was it ok to remove that language and the final piece is right before the Now Therefore Be It Resolved there was another Whereas that was removed that said "The Twin Cities Community has a strong history of over four decades of American Indian Activism which the City celebrates and honors".

Commissioner Peterson did not remember why she removed that sentence.

Commissioner Macomber asked if American Indian rather than Native American is the preferred description.

Commissioner Peterson stated she did reach out to people within that community which reviewed the Proclamation and were ok with that.

Chair Beltmann stated she appreciated the change to the first Whereas because she did not think that was worded well at all before. The third Whereas in Attachment B she would like to recommend that the Commission put that into Attachment A in place of what is there and thought it was something that is important to continue to be conscious of.

Youth Commissioner Iverson agreed with the last Whereas for attachment B being removed so the Commission does not have to continually update the language.

Commissioner Peterson moved and Commissioner Djevi seconded a motion to approve Attachment C to include the third Whereas from Attachment B. Motion passed unanimously.

g. Census Outreach at Family Night Out

Ms. Olson summarized that the City is starting its efforts to raise awareness and answer questions about the 2020 census.

Commissioner Lee asked if staff would be provided for the census information.

Ms. Olson stated the information would be provided but there would not be any staff. The Government is currently hiring census staff.

Commissioner Djevi asked who is likely to be at the Family Night Out at Central Park.

Ms. Olson stated she has not attended but her understanding is this is a very large event with families of younger children.

Chair Beltmann thought this would be a good topic to bring back to a future meeting for discussion.

Other New Business or Reports

Ms. Olson stated this is the Youth Commissioners last meeting.

Chair Beltmann stated she would love to do something to recognize the Youth Commissioners at the meeting. She indicated she would like to do something for Youth Commissioner Iverson at the July meeting and noted that Youth Commissioner Hansel will probably not be in attendance.

Announcements

Commissioner Djevi stated June 15th at Central Park from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. is Juneteenth Celebration. There will be games, food, music and dancing.

Commissioner Djevi stated this past Saturday he was at the Rice Street garden and ran into the City Manager there and he was handing out information about the bus circulator information.

Ms. Olson stated the City Manager said that was absolutely the type of engagement the City needs to be doing and is very intense because there is only a certain amount of people that can be talked to in a certain time. He loved it and thought it was good for him.

Commissioner Djevi stated he talked to the City Manager and thought it was good to see him there but something the Commission should be doing which is really engaging. Hopefully, going forward that is something the Commission can be doing. He thought if the Commission can, have a field trip to the garden.

Future Agenda Items

- a. Close Before you Doze continued discussion
- b. Engagement Project Next Steps
- c. Hispanic Heritage Month Event Discussion
- d. Census discussion for August

Adjournment

Commissioner Peterson moved and Commissioner Djevi seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Beltmann adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Osbeck

TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.