

1 **Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **June 15, 2022**

4
5
6 **Commissioners Present:** Amanda Becker, Etienne Djevi, Richard James, Kathryn
7 Macomber, Laura Palmquist and Adepeju Solarin (Peju).

8
9 **Youth Commissioners:** Beverly Yiling Xie

10
11 **Commissioners Absent:** Keith Allen, Paul Haas, David Sindiga (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 James seconded a motion to approve the
23 Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

24
25 **Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda**

26
27 None.

28
29 **Commission Response to Community Issues**

30
31 Youth Member Xie indicated she wanted to take a moment to reflect on the shooting in Texas.
32 She was thinking about all of the lives lost by someone who may have needed some mental
33 support or community support. She would think that if she was a parent and sent her child to
34 school she would like to see them on the bus coming home instead of sending them to school and
35 not knowing if they will be safe at school and maybe thinking about the possibility of never
36 seeing them again. She thought this was a time to reflect on making changes for the future in the
37 community because it is not a Texas thing and could have happened in Roseville. She would like
38 everyone to think about what kind of changes they would like to see in the community so that the
39 next generation will not have to worry about this kind of thing happening to them.

40
41 Commissioner Djevi thought the point Youth Commissioner Xie is raising is one that is complex
42 and will require action from the politicians, the Country leaders so that if certain things need to
43 change they get changed. From a community standpoint, people who go out and commit these
44 sort of atrocities are usually due to social isolation and is part of the issue. The point he would
45 like to make to the community is to try to reach out to people who may be struggling mentally.

46

47 Commissioner Becker arrived at 6:40 p.m.

48

49 Commissioner Peju thanked Youth Commissioner Xie for bringing the topic up because it could
50 happen in Roseville. She also thought what Commissioner Djevi was pointing to was community
51 connection.

52

53 Commissioner James indicated it is very easy to get disheartened and state there is nothing that
54 can be done but if the Commission can do what it can as a Commission then they are doing
55 something and can all feel positive and good about that.

56

57 **Approve Minutes**

58

59 **a. May 18, 2022 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**

60

61 Mr. Brooks reviewed changes to be made by Commissioner James.

62

63 Commissioner Djevi moved and Commissioner Macomber seconded a motion to approve the
64 May 18, 2022 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission meeting minutes as
65 amended. Motion passed 6 ayes, 1 abstain (Adepeju Solarin).

66

67 **Youth Commissioner Report**

68 Youth Commissioner Xie reported she ended up talking with Rebecca about the AAPI
69 Proclamation. She was interviewed as a Youth Commissioner and she talked about how she felt
70 as an Asian American and why she felt others should know about the AAPI community. One
71 take away or disappointment she had was that she did not know what the phone call went toward
72 because Rebecca did have her talk about AAPI history and her personal experience but did not
73 know what Rebecca used that for. She wondered if she could get more information on that, if
74 possible.

75

76 Youth Commissioner Xie also indicated the Black Student Union and the Bay High students put
77 on a picnic awhile back and she was happy to see Mr. Brooks and members of the HRIEC there
78 as well as Mayor Roe supporting students and making it know that the City is here to service
79 them and the school.

80

81 **New Business**

82

83 **a. Discussion with RAHS Progressives Student Representatives**

84 Ms. Thomsen explained what RAHS Progressives is and updated the Commission on
85 the recent rally they were at and promoting electric school buses.

86

87 Commissioner Peju asked how RAHS sees the HRIEC being useful and supportive to
88 them.

89

90 Ms. Thomsen asked what the HRIEC does and what is the history of the Commission.

91

92 Commissioner Becker indicated the HRIEC is an advisory Commission and a group
93 liaison between the community and City Council. The goal is to be really engaged
94 with the community, all ages, groups, people and varieties and listen and be able to
95 advocate where they are able to.

96
97 Youth Commissioner Xie explained the Commission is made up of community
98 members and basically listen to other community members on changes they want to
99 see in their community. The HRIEC has regular meetings with the City Council and
100 can bring community feedback to the City Council through those meetings. She noted
101 she is the Youth Commissioner so her role is basically the same as them and act as a
102 bridge between the City and school serving on the Commission and connect students
103 with the City if they want to see some kind of change.

104
105 Commissioners discussed previous activities and events the HRIEC has done.

106
107 Commission Peju asked RAHS if there is some events on their calendar for summer.

108
109 Ms. Thomsen thought their biggest push right now is to get electric school buses but
110 she did not know exactly to get that done.

111
112 Youth Commissioner Xie wondered if that should go before the Transportation
113 Commission or School Board.

114
115 Commissioner James explained the HRIEC is looking to get the youth in the
116 community more involved in issues and Commissions.

117
118 Commissioner Djevi suggested students to apply to be a Youth Commissioner on any
119 of the Commissions in the City. He noted one idea that was talked about a couple
120 years ago was how does the Commission represent Human Rights in the school
121 system. One thing discussed was maybe partnering with the School District or the
122 High School to talk about Human Right issues found in the communities.

123
124 Chair Palmquist asked RAHS members to talk about events that were planned in the
125 past how those events turned out.

126
127 Ms. Thomsen reviewed the clothing drive that was held in the winter. The biggest
128 event was the Climate Walkout. There are still discussions going on about climate
129 issues and recycling.

130
131 Chair Palmquist indicated as events come up the HRIEC is happy to help out where
132 needed and try to get the word out.

133
134 Commissioner James suggested RAHS look up and work with Do Good Roseville.

135

136 RAHS members introduced themselves. Mr. Samuel Wallace, Roseville resident, Ms.
137 Tara Thomsen, Little Canada resident and Ms. Eleanor Nymoen, Roseville resident.

138

139 The Commission thanked the students for coming to the meeting.

140

141 **b. Discussion on Future Proclamation Support and Editing**

142 Chair Palmquist explained proclamations are important and will keep doing them but
143 want to make sure they are done well and are consistent as well as get some more
144 support to the sub-group.

145

146 Commissioner James reviewed the sub-group work being done on proclamations and
147 the history of them. He noted the sub-group would like to start working on four
148 proclamations to begin with. He asked the Commission to help decide which four
149 proclamations are the most important ones to start on.

150

151 Chair Palmquist indicated a couple of things that stood out to her was there is more
152 money in the budget to do more things but the Commission needs to figure out to get
153 more done and to do it well.

154

155 Commissioner Peju loved what she is hearing.

156

157 Commissioner Becker asked if the library has been a source where a lot of the
158 proclamations are shown and would the library be a resource for a continuous public
159 space.

160

161 Commissioner Djevi indicated the library is on board with the Commission bringing
162 items for the display cases.

163

164 Commissioner Peju thought the scheduled that has been put in place is very detailed
165 but what she was hearing was the Commission needs support in order to achieve what
166 it wants to accomplish with the proclamations. She asked if the schedule will be
167 scrapped or will it be built upon by bringing in community support to do these things.

168

169 Mr. Brooks explained staff has been doing a lot so far on the monthly proclamations.
170 He thought the goal is to prioritize what the Commission wants to work on and
171 collectively put more effort into it.

172

173 Commissioner Macomber explained to do this well there needs to be three to four
174 months lead time for each proclamation in order to work with everyone.

175

176 The Commission discussed how going forward the proclamations would be worked
177 on as a sub-group and as a group in whole.

178

179 Youth Commissioner Xie thought maybe there could be a chart every month like the
180 one in the packet with all of the proclamations but only include the ones that the

181 Commission is supposed to have proclamations for and have it note at the top or
182 bottom that the following months would be highlighted with resources and links
183 listed. While highlighting certain months there will be other months that are not
184 highlighted but people could still learn about them through the footnotes and links on
185 the chart.

186
187 Chair Palmquist thought that could also be forwarded to the library for book lists that
188 would go along with the proclamations.

189
190 Commissioner Peju thought that was a great idea and something that Mr. Yunke
191 would love to handle.

192
193 Youth Commissioner Xie thought if there was some extra funds the Commission
194 should have a speaker come in and talk at the library and 9North could record them to
195 be placed on the website as a resource for people to always look back on.

196
197 Commissioner Macomber indicated the group Arts Roseville puts on events every
198 month April through October where they have an artist come into the library to
199 perform or display their artwork and that could be recorded as well and the library
200 will link to it as well.

201
202 Chair Palmquist thought all of the ideas were great.

203
204 Commissioner James asked the Commission which four proclamations the HRIEC
205 would want to work on first.

206
207 Commissioner Djevi proposed to have everyone send their choices to Mr. Brooks and
208 he can compile the top four proclamations.

209
210 **c. 2022 Work Plan Updates and Discussion**

211 Chair Palmquist asked Commission leads for updates on their work plan items.

212
213 Commissioner James reviewed with the Commission updates on the Essay Contest.
214 He indicated there is a revised Essay question that needs Commission approval before
215 more work can be done.

216
217 Mr. Brooks indicated the question seems very long and complicated for middle
218 schoolers. He also emphasized the art component as well and he was not sure how
219 such a long, detailed question translates to art. He thought if the Commission expands
220 on the art piece the City might get more participants because it is more of a fun
221 activity rather than writing an essay. He wanted to make sure that whatever the
222 question is it should be simple enough for middle schoolers to understand as well as
223 having an art prompt.

224

225 Youth Commissioner Xie asked if there should be a different art question that is
226 similar but is more worded for drawing a picture because from looking at the question
227 she could not draw a picture based on that but if there was a different art prompt she
228 would be able to draw a picture better. She thought maybe it could state “draw a
229 picture of how Roseville can show human rights or promote human rights”, or “draw
230 a picture of a time where they felt human rights was being promoted in the
231 community.” She thought it was still too narrow but thought the Commission got her
232 point.

233
234 Chair Palmquist wondered if there should be a short paragraph just for teachers that
235 they could talk to their students about and instruct the student to write or show the
236 answer to the question proposed.

237
238 Youth Commissioner Xie thought the sentence “We are all part...” can be separate
239 and then the next sentence “Many of us...” could be an essay question. Maybe the
240 question could say “Human Rights such as dignity, fairness, equality and respect” be
241 moved to the question and have it there as well as a part of the community to read
242 “Human Rights such as dignity, fairness, equality and respect. Have you or your
243 friends every felt this way?. If so, how?” She did not think there needed to be the
244 first sentence in there as a way to shorten this.

245
246 Commissioner Macomber thought they needed to pull out the words they want to
247 work with. Dignity, fairness, equality and respect and then in the next paragraph
248 equity, inclusion, seems like too many concepts that are very similar. She thought the
249 same words should be used in both parts.

250
251 Commissioner Becker indicated equity is a word that is heard a lot and what does that
252 look like to a middle schooler.

253
254 Commissioner Macomber thought the teacher might need to define equity and
255 inclusion to a middle schooler in their terms.

256
257 Commissioner Djevi thought if the question is really broad there will be difficulty in
258 grading them because even if these are all essays the student might pick something
259 different to wrote about then others and it will be difficult to judge.

260
261 Chair Palmquist thought equity has come up a lot so that might be one thing that
262 could be used.

263
264 Commissioner Djevi thought maybe the middle schoolers could define equity and
265 how the student wants to implement that in their own lives and how the City can do
266 better.

267

268 Mr. Brooks suggested “Equity and inclusion are high priorities for our community in
269 Roseville. What does the future of Roseville look like in a truly equitable and
270 inclusive environment.”

271
272 The Commission liked this.

273
274 Commissioner Peju indicated she liked it but still wanted to stick with one word. She
275 suggested just doing equity.

276
277 Mr. Brooks explained he included inclusion and inclusivity because he thought youth
278 know what it is means to be inclusive. Equity is a term that most adults cannot even
279 define because it is so broad.

280
281 Commissioner Peju wondered if the sentence could be cleaned up even further and
282 just use one of the terms.

283
284 Youth Commissioner Xie thought inclusion felt too broad of a term as well.

285
286 Commissioner Becker wondered if the question could be prompted a little bit to state
287 “inclusion feels like an easy thing to do, why do people struggle with it?”.

288
289 Commissioner Djevi indicated he liked the word inclusive because if you are
290 inclusive as a community you are watching out for people being equitable and taking
291 everyone interest into consideration when making decisions.

292
293 Mr. Brooks suggested the following question “What does the future of Roseville look
294 like when truly inclusive of everyone?”

295
296 Commissioner Becker thought it maybe should be stated “Why do we struggle to be
297 inclusive?” She thought the question posed will help the students to become more
298 civic minded at a young age.

299
300 Mr. Brooks thought the Commission has general consensus on what type of question
301 to ask. Next step is to finalize the words and get it to the District as soon as possible.

302
303 Commissioner Becker updated the Commission on the Rosefest Parade planning. She
304 noted the Native American Parent Advisory Group will be participating with
305 approximately twenty people. The group has ordered and will hopefully have all
306 eleven flags that will represent the tribes of Minnesota.

307
308 Chair Palmquist updated the Commission on Youth Engagement.

309
310 Commissioner Becker explained she is working on outreach in the community.

311

312 Commissioner Djevi indicated two years ago there was talk about community voices
313 as maybe a project and could be something to do to get stories that could be published
314 once a month.

315
316 Commissioner Peju explained this is a lot of work that Commissioner Becker is
317 putting together and if the Commission wanted to have some sort of repository, even
318 being able to edit this into something simple, it is going to be a beautiful thing but
319 they are going to need more than Commissioner Becker and ADHOC in it. She did
320 not know if the City Council or staff was planning on looking at this in a more
321 concrete way beyond this.

322
323 Mr. Brooks indicated the Commission can send the information over to Corey Yunke
324 and Rebecca Toews.

325
326 Commissioner Becker thought Corey Yunke will have some use for these stories as
327 well as there is a collective that she is a part of that has an online journal called
328 “Northern Spotlight” which highlights community stories and would be willing to
329 host a little area where Roseville voices could be located at.

330
331 Mr. Brooks thought in terms of simplifying it a little bit, he thinks of radio or a
332 podcast and sticking within an hour where a lot of the editing would not need to be
333 done.

334
335 The Commission talked about involving 9North to provide recording stories and a
336 location to keep the files.

337
338 Commissioner Djevi wanted to recognize Commissioner Becker for all her work done
339 on the parade and outreach that she has done.

340

341 **Other New Business or Reports**

342 **a. Staff Updates Report**

343 Equity and Inclusion Manager Brooks reported on the following:

- 344 • SREAP updates
- 345 • CultureBrokers work has ended
- 346 • IAP2 Meeting to Council
- 347 • Commission Recruitment – Youth (ongoing for other Commissions)
- 348 • Juneteenth – June 19th in Central Park 4-8 p.m.

349

350 **Announcements**

351

352 The Commission discussed Juneteenth and the upcoming event in Roseville and surrounding
353 area.

354

355 **Future Agenda Items**

356 **a. Just Deeds**

357

358 **Adjournment**

359

360 Chair Palmquist adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

361

362 Respectfully submitted,

363

364 Sue Osbeck

365 *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*