



To: HRRC

Agenda Item #: III.

From: MJ Lamon Staff Liaison

Action

Date: 8/25/2015

Discussion

Subject: Approval of Meeting Agenda

Information

Action Requested:

Approve the meeting agenda for the regular meeting of the Human Rights and Relations Commission.

Information / Background:

None.

Attachment:

Meeting Agenda.

AGENDA
CITY OF EDINA, MINNESOTA
HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
August 28, 2015

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA
- IV. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. July 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- V. COMMUNITY COMMENT
- VI. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS
 - A. Work Plan Updates
 - B. 2016 Work Plan Proposal
- VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITION
- VIII. CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS
- IX. STAFF COMMENTS
- X. ADJOURNMENT

*During “Community Comment,” the Human Rights & Relations Commission will invite residents to share relevant issues or concerns. Individuals must limit their comments to **three minutes**. The Chair may limit the number of speakers on the same issue in the interest of time and topic. Generally speaking, items that are elsewhere on tonight’s agenda may not be addressed during Community Comment. Individuals should not expect the Chair or Commission Members to respond to their comments tonight. Instead, the Commission might refer the matter to staff for consideration at a future meeting.*

The City of Edina wants all residents to be comfortable being part of the public process. If you need assistance in the way of hearing amplification, an interpreter, large-print documents or something else, please call 952-927-8861 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.



To: HRRC

Agenda Item #: IV.

From: MJ Lamon Staff Liaison

Action

Date: 8/25/2015

Discussion

Subject: Adoption of Consent Agenda

Information

Action Requested:

All items listed under consent agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of such items unless requested to be removed from the consent agenda by an HRRC member.

Information / Background:

None.

Attachment:

Draft meeting minutes from HRRC meeting; Attendance Roster



MINUTES
HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELATIONS COMMISSION
July 28, 2015 at 7:00PM
City Hall, Community Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Arseneault called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners answering roll call were Chair Arseneault, Commissioners Burza, Kennedy, Rinn, Tian, Winnick, and Student Commissioner Weinert. Staff present: HRRC Staff Liaison, MJ Lamon, City Management Fellow Devin Massopust

Absent members: Commissioner Seidman and Student Commissioner Gates.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Commissioner Kennedy moved to approve the July 28, 2015 meeting agenda. Commissioner Winnick seconded. Motion passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Kennedy moved to approve the June 23, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Burza seconded. Motion passed.

V. COMMUNITY COMMENT

Commissioner Kennedy introduced Eli, a new staff member at World Without Genocide and recent graduate of Carleton College. Kennedy stated that he will be working with her on the annual Days of Remembrance event.

Commissioner Vecchio-Smith arrived at 7:09 p.m.

VI. GUEST PRESENTER: Nekima Levy-Pounds

Commissioner Kennedy let the Commission know that Ms. Levy-Pounds was unable to attend the evening's meeting to present best practices on cities avoiding discrimination. Commissioner Kennedy suggested that she could contact Sarah Walker, who is involved in the MN Second Chance Coalition and the Prison Policy Initiative, as an alternative guest speaker, and in addition, we could pursue a member of the Civil Rights Division of the FBI in Minneapolis as a speaker.

The Commission decided that they would try to schedule Sarah Walker for the December 10th meeting as it will be televised. The Commission agreed that they also wanted to try to have a staff person from the FBI present, but agreed to wait until the October 27th meeting, as the annual work plan will be complete by that meeting.

VII. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Work Plan Updates

- a) Community Outreach: Commissioner Burza stated that there will be a series of meetings beginning in the first two weeks of October and that the preparation will begin in August. The flyer has been updated to be more persuasive in order to illicit more of a response and that the flyer will be disseminated in areas where certain demographics are likely to identify with the issues and topics. Mary Manderfeld of Edina Public Schools was present at the July 17 meeting of the working group and offered that the schools could perhaps host meetings as the demographics of those attending Edina Public Schools have changed. Commissioner Burza also noted that the working group is considering whether it is possible to offer daycare in order to entice and enable more people to come, especially those who have younger children.
- b) Human Rights City Designation: Commissioner Kennedy said she is putting together a list of Edina organizations where presentations could be scheduled that includes faith, educational and civic groups. The Edina League of Women Voters has been scheduled for two presentations. The plan is to contact HRRC Commissioners individually to learn about organizations to which commissioners have connections for additional presentation venues.
- c) Affordable Housing: Commissioner Winnick updated the Commission on the current status of the Affordable Housing Policy. He stated that the City Council asked that the matter be taken off the agenda at their previous meeting because they wanted to create a clause in the policy that would allow developers to make a cash payment in-lieu of developing the 20% quota of affordable units. Such a provision appears to be directly contrary to what the Commission wants to see established in Edina. Commissioner Winnick presented draft language for a second advisory communication to be sent to City Council to voice our opposition to the payments in-lieu-of policy.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if members of the HRRC should reach out directly to individual members of the City Council to voice their disapproval of the proposed provision.

Staff liaison Lamon replied that the Commission as a whole could try to complete a form of correspondence by the next meeting. Commissioner Winnick noted that the advisory communication would have to be submitted by the end of the next business day.

Commissioner Winnick also noted that any communications from the HRRC must go through the proper communications channels, but individual commissioners can voice their concerns as individuals and not speaking for the Commission as a whole.

Commissioner Vecchio-Smith stated that she opposed the new provision, but if the Affordable Housing Policy were to be passed with it included, she would like the formula to be more structured.

Chair Arseneault asked how the issue can be reframed in a memo to the City Council. Commissioner Kennedy replied that rational arguments may not work on such an emotional issue so must appeal to those emotions. The Commission agreed to reframe the issue as a personal one; and that it would be more effective to express the issue as Edina's need for housing for its workforce – for teachers, firefighters, and retail employees. Commissioners agreed that the Affordable Housing committee will finalize the advisory communication by tomorrow, to express our concern and opposition to the inclusion of a payment in-lieu fee.

- d) ADA Event Proposal: Commissioner Vecchio-Smith stated that she has not had the opportunity to speak to her friend regarding the impacts of the ADA. Commissioner Vecchio-Smith does have another interesting source that could be used as her sister is a board member of the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens and has been involved in policy issues through that. She noted that a series of anecdotes about what the law means for a deaf person in Edina could be used for the blog about impact of the ADA law.

B. Tom Oye Award Procedure Review

Commissioner Rinn presented her report on Tom Oye Award procedure that identified seven issues and potential solutions. The Commission thanked Commissioner Rinn for her good work.

Motion by Commissioner Winnick to accept all of the recommendations as written with the exception of #6 and to amend recommendation #6 so that

members can make nominations and vote, but recuse themselves from discussions. Seconded by Commissioner Kennedy. Motion passed.

C. Website Proposal

Commissioner Tian updated the Commission on recent changes to the website that he is requesting be made. He stated that the last paragraph on the HRRC webpage should be a conclusion paragraph about the Commission as a whole. Also, an Archive section will be created to house older accomplishments of the HRRC.

Motion by Commissioner Kennedy to approve the website changes with amended edits and to include the work plan and archive section on the site. Seconded by Commissioner Winnick. Motion passed.

D. Capitol Art Project

Chair Arseneault advised the Commission that she and Staff Liaison Lamon attended a meeting with representatives from other human rights commissions in surrounding communities regarding art at the state Capitol building. Jim Bear Jacobs, a member of the Turtle Clan of Mohican Nation and a member of the Healing Minnesota Stories group was the guest speaker. Jim Bear advised that the legislative Capitol Preservation Committee formed an art subcommittee to make recommendations regarding art at the Capitol. Much of the existing art is offensive as it inaccurately depicts history and is an inaccurate portrayal of indigenous peoples. Jim Bear's group wants to bring awareness of this opportunity during the Capitol restoration to influence what the art may look like at the Capitol, including the idea that the Capitol art should reflect the diversity of Minnesota. Chair Arseneault said it is unknown at this time how the art subcommittee will conduct its review, receive public input and form its recommendations, but we should learn more after the subcommittee meets.

Chair Arseneault noted that the initiative will be tracked and updates provided as available. Commissioner Kennedy asked if a note could be sent as a Commission voicing support for their work. Commissioner Winnick asked if this topic has been or should be referred to the Edina Public Art Committee as they may be able to play some role in future discussions regarding the topic. Chair Arseneault also will circle back with other commissions to see if there is opportunity to coordinate any action on the issue.

E. 2016 Work Plan

Staff Liaison Lamon let the Commission know that the August meeting would be devoted to developing the 2016 work plan and that members should be ready with ideas for discussion.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITION

No discussion took place, there being no correspondence.

IX. CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Kennedy informed Commissioners of an opportunity to attend an upcoming annual meeting of Forward Global Women, and an opportunity for high school and college students to attend a summer institute on Religions and Genocide.

Chair Arseneault gave an update about a bias offence incident reported at Concord Elementary School. A derogatory and offensive word was written in lotion by the parking lot and had been investigated by Edina Police. Arseneault reviewed the Bias Offense response process and how it has been followed thus far. The next step is for Arseneault to initiate contact with Gwen Jackson of Edina Public Schools, and see what type of response or follow up may be desired.

X. STAFF COMMENTS

Staff Liaison Lamon stated that staff is looking at the Boards and Commissions bylaws and proposing a few technical changes that should have no impact on how the HRRC operates.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kennedy moved to adjourn the July 28th meeting. Commissioner Vecchio-Smith seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MJ Lamon, HRRC Staff Liaison

Minutes Approved by HRRC August 25, 2015

Pat Arseneault, HRRC Chair

DRAFT

HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION																	
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Work Session	Work Session	# of Mtgs.	Attendance %
Meetings/Work Sessions		1	1	1	1	1	1	1								7	
NAME	TERM													(Enter Date)	(Enter Date)		
Arseneault, Patrice	3/1/2018	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								7	100%
Davis, Laura	3/1/2018	1		1	1											3	43%
Kennedy, Ellen	2/1/2017	1	1	1	1	1		1								6	86%
Sanders, Tiffany	2/1/2017	1		1	1											3	43%
Seidman, Jan	2/1/2016	1	1	1	1	1	1									6	86%
Winnick, Steve	2/1/2016	1	1		1	1	1	1								6	86%
Tian, Tony	3/1/2018			1	1	1	1	1								5	100%
Vecchio-Smith, Maggie	3/1/2017			1	1	1	1	1								5	100%
Burza, Jasna	3/1/2016			1	1	1		1								4	86%
Rinn, Sarah	3/1/2018					1	1	1								3	100%
Bigbee, Arnie	2/1/2015	1	1													2	29%
Gates, Nicole	9/1/2015		1	1	1	1										4	57%
Weinert, Katrina	9/1/2015	1	1	1	1	1		1								6	86%

Inactive - re

Inactive - re

Inactive - te

Liaisons: Report attendance monthly and attach this report to the Commission minutes for the packet.
Do not enter numbers into the last two columns. Meeting numbers & attendance percentages will calculate automatically.

INSTRUCTIONS:	Counted as Meeting Held (ON MEETINGS' LINE)	Attendance Recorded (ON MEMBER'S LINE)
Regular Meeting w/Quorum	Type "1" under the month on the meetings' line.	Type "1" under the month for each attending member.
Regular Meeting w/o Quorum	Type "1" under the month on the meetings' line.	Type "1" under the month for each attending member.
Joint Work Session	Type "1" under "Work Session" on the meetings' line.	Type "1" under "Work Session" for each attending member.
Rescheduled Meeting*	Type "1" under the month on the meetings' line.	Type "1" under the month for each attending member.
Cancelled Meeting	Type "1" under the month on the meetings' line.	Type "1" under the month for ALL members.
Special Meeting	There is no number typed on the meetings' line.	There is no number typed on the members' lines.

*A rescheduled meeting occurs when members are notified of a new meeting date/time at a prior meeting. If shorter notice is given, the previously-scheduled meeting is considered to have been cancelled and replaced with a special meeting.



To: HRRC

Agenda Item #: VI. A.

From: MJ Lamon Staff Liaison

Action

Date: 8/25/2015

Discussion

Subject: Work Plan Updates

Information

Action Requested:

None.

Information / Background:

- a. Community Outreach (Burza)
- b. Human Rights City Designation: Status and Outline of Presentation (Kennedy)
- c. Affordable Housing (Winnick/Vecchio-Smith)
- d. ADA Event Proposal
- e. HRRC Website Updates

Attachment:

2015 Work Plan.



Human Rights and Relations Commission 2015 Annual Work Plan

Approved by City Council on 12/16/14.

2015 New Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
Community Outreach: Community Conversations Working Group (Burza) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct community listening sessions 2. Reach out to those that live or work in Edina (including religious, ethnic, disabled, income levels, etc.). 3. Partnership with Advocates for Human Rights Consolidate into a report <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is a welcoming community? 2. Is Edina a welcoming community? 	October 2015 – complete community conversations (5-6) that start in November 2014 December 2015 – report complete and presentation to HRRC	\$500	Administrative	
Progress Report:				
2015 New Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
Human Rights City Designation (Kennedy & Winnick)	2015-2016	\$300	Administrative	
Progress Report:				
2015 New Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
Affordable Housing Expanding Opportunity (Winnick) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued education on affordable housing 2. Monitor status of Edina 3. Support current efforts 	2015	None		

Progress Report:

2015 New Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
Body Image and Sexuality Awareness (Gates, Seidman, Arseneault)	2015	\$800	Administrative, coordination with Communications	

Progress Report:

2015 New Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
Human Trafficking (Weinert, Seidman, Arseneault)	May 2015	\$300	Yes	

Progress Report:

On-going Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
Days of Remembrance/Genocide Awareness: Event (Seidman, Kennedy, Arseneault)	April 19, 2015	\$1000	Administrative, coordination with Communications	

Progress Report:

On-going Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
Bias Offense Response and Prevention Plan (Seidman & Arseneault)	August 2015	NA	Yes	

Progress Report:

On-going Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
Tom Oye Award (Winnick 2014-2015) Tom Oye Award (Rinn 2015-2016) 1. Sub-committee will recommend guidelines and changes to nomination form to start in 2015-2016.	April 2015	\$100	Yes	

Progress Report:

Ongoing Responsibilities	
Update Bias Offense Response and Prevention Plan (August)	
Tom Oye Award (Oct-April)	
Days of Remembrance (Event held in April or May, to coincide with the national observation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)	
Edina Resource Center/Edina Community Council: HRRC representative (Sept-May, 3 year term)	
The Advisor: Blog: Need Commissioner	
Monitoring Affordable Housing Sub-Committee	

Other Work Plan Ideas Considered for Current Year or Future Years	
Disability Awareness Campaign: 25 th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act	
Black History Month	
Tolerance in Motion – hosting mobile exhibit and associated activities (pending funding by sponsors)	

Proposed Month for Joint Work Session:	September
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Staff Comments:	
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Council Comments:	
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To: HRRC

Agenda Item #: VI. B.

From: MJ Lamon Staff Liaison

Action

Date: 8/25/2015

Discussion

Subject: 2016 Work Plan Proposal

Information

Action Requested:

Propose ideas for the 2016 Work Plan.

Information / Background:

Work plans are due to MJ by September 29, 2015.

Attachment:

2016 Work Plan Template

Board/Commission: 2016 Annual Work Plan DRAFT



*Complete each section with a white background & designate if initiative is new or a continuation from the previous year

*Return to MJ Lamon by September 29

Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/> New Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Continued Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
34T		34T	34T	34T	
Progress Report: 34T					

Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/> New Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Continued Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
34T		34T	34T	34T	
Progress Report: 34T					

Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/> New Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Continued Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
34T		34T	34T	34T	
Progress Report: 34T					

Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/> New Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Continued Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
34T		34T	34T	34T	
Progress Report: 34T					

Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/> New Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Continued Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
34T		34T	34T	34T	
Progress Report: 34T					

Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/> New Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Continued Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
34T		34T	34T	34T	
Progress Report: 34T					

Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/> New Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Continued Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
34T		34T	34T	34T	
Progress Report: 34T					

Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/> New Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Continued Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
34T		34T	34T	34T	
Progress Report: 34T					

Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/> New Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Continued Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Initiative	Target Completion Date	Budget Required	Staff Support Required	Council Approval
34T		34T	34T	34T	
Progress Report: 34T					

Ongoing Responsibilities

Other Work Plan Ideas Considered for Current Year or Future Years

Proposed Month for Joint Work Session:

Staff Comments:

Council Comments:



To: HRRC

Agenda Item #: VII.

From: MJ Lamon Staff Liaison

Action

Date: 8/25/2015

Discussion

Subject: Correspondence and Petitions

Information

Action Requested:

None.

Information / Background:

Correspondence received since the last HRRC meeting.

Attachment:

Correspondence.

The Human Rights Commission presents

a peace of my mind

EXPLORING THE MEANING OF PEACE, ONE STORY AT A TIME

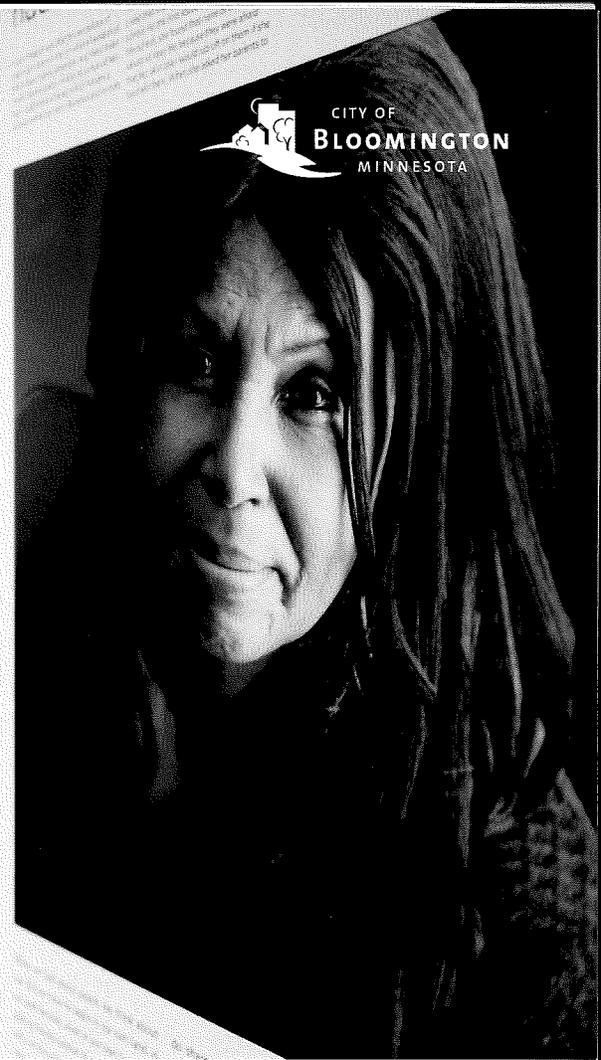


Exhibit: September 15 - October 4
Event: Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 p.m.
Bloomington Civic Plaza
1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd.

Photo credit: apeaceofmymind.net

In honor of the International Day of Peace, the Human Rights Commission is sponsoring the multimedia art project, "A Peace of My Mind," created by Bloomington resident John Noltner.

The exhibit features 52 portraits that are accompanied by compelling personal stories of Minnesotans who were asked the central question, "What does peace mean to you?"

John Noltner will share stories and lessons learned from interviews he conducted around the country on the topic of peace, **Tuesday, September 22, 7 p.m.**

Please join us for a reception before the program at 6:30 p.m.

The exhibit and event are free and open to the public.

Learn more about this project at apeaceofmymind.net.

For more information and event registration:

952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933 or humanrights@BloomingtonMN.gov

The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

4116 13th Pl. NE
Washington, DC 20017
(202)269-6655
jloewen@uvm.edu
Internet Home Page:
sundown.afro.illinois.edu
July 22, 2015

Dear Sandy,

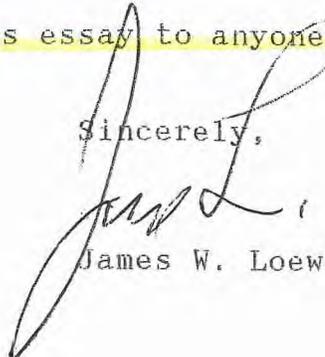
I sent this last week to the Minneapolis Tribune. They did not print it. So I sent it to the Hennepin County Commissioners.

I also revised it slightly and sent it to where I blog, HNN.us, to be precise, my blogspot, which is <http://historynewsnetwork.org/blog/author/11>

(I'm told that the Hennepin County Library system has computers for your use!)

You have my permission to spread this essay to anyone or any outlet you wish! Change the name!

Sincerely,



James W. Loewen

Rename Lake Calhoun

James W. Loewen

author of the best-selling Lies My Teacher Told Me

jloewen@uvm.edu

It is true that John C. Calhoun was an able Secretary of War, from 1817 to 1825. Some Minnesotans defend "Lake Calhoun" for that reason: he was in office when Fort Snelling was built, helping to fortify white settlements against Native Americans.

Such arguments miss the arc of Calhoun's life. At the same age, Harry S. Truman ably oversaw the erection of twelve Madonnas of the Trail monuments honoring pioneer women, coast to coast. So what? That's not why we remember or honor Truman.

After he was Secretary of War, Calhoun took ever more extreme positions favoring the South as a region and slavery as a cause. He called the Missouri Compromise, which he had supported at the time, "unconstitutional," because it banned slavery from territories north of Arkansas. Eventually, he came to place the interests of his region as he perceived them ahead of the national interest, ahead even of national unity.

Repeatedly, Calhoun threatened disunion to blackmail national leaders to get what he wanted. He explained his strategy to a friend in 1827:

You will see that I have made up the issue between North and South. If we flinch we are gone, but if we stand fast on it, we shall triumph either by compelling the North to yield to our terms, or declaring our independence of them.

Opposed to the high tariffs of 1828-1832, Calhoun prompted a national crisis when he got South Carolina to "nullify" them. President Jackson refused to back down, declaring, "Our Federal Union — it must and shall be preserved." Calhoun's threats did get congressional leaders to lower the tariff, however. Having browbeaten his way on the tariff, Calhoun later threatened disunion if Texas was not annexed, if the United States extended diplomatic recognition to Haiti, and even if citizens in northern states continued to agitate for abolition. Should Minnesota honor him for that?

In 1837 he told the Senate, "[Slavery] cannot be subverted without drenching the country in blood, and extirpating one or the other of the races." Nor should slavery ever be ended, he went on, because it is "a positive good." This theory relies openly on racism — slavery is good for black people because they are "low, degraded, and savage," in Calhoun's words. Should Minnesota honor him for that?

At that time, Calhoun had written that states' rights let Northerners distance themselves morally from slavery. "A large portion of the Northern States believes slavery to be a sin, and would consider it as an obligation of conscience to abolish it if they should feel themselves in any degree responsible for its continuance." By the 1840s, however, he opposed states' rights when those rights had anything to do with freedom, a move calculated to sow sectional discord.

By the 1840s, Calhoun had no more use for democracy. He pushed to make the South a closed society. He argued that Congress should not even receive petitions about slavery; sending abolitionist materials through the mail should be a crime. And he insisted that because the Constitution protected slavery, slaveowners had the right to take their property into any territory, even if its residents had voted slavery down.

Therefore Congress had had no Constitutional right to pass the Northwest Ordinance, which had outlawed slavery northwest of the Ohio River, including part of Minnesota. Since some of the same people voted for the Northwest Ordinance who later voted for the Constitution, Calhoun could hardly claim to know the founders' intent. Nevertheless, he provided the intellectual scaffolding for Dred Scott in 1857, which reached Calhoun's conclusion seven years after his death. Minnesotans will recall that Dred Scott also references Fort Snelling, since Scott argued that his stay there made him free. Calhoun would have shouted "No!"

In 1850 he again threatened secession unless the federal government passed and enforced a harsh fugitive slave law and required slavery throughout the territories. His agitating for secession helped win that fugitive slave law. Nevertheless, on his deathbed he opposed the Compromise of 1850, claiming that it didn't go far enough toward guaranteeing slavery forever. By this point, it is doubtful that any compromise would have satisfied Calhoun.

John C. Calhoun is remembered for what he did in the latter half of his adult life. In those years, he rationalized slavery, suppressed freedom of speech, and legitimized secession. Surely that legacy should persuade Minnesotans to rename Lake Calhoun

Every year that the lake remains named for him, Minnesota declares on its landscape that John C. Calhoun was a hero worthy of honor. That declaration insults every black resident and every white resident who does not believe that treason on behalf of slavery made moral or political sense then or now. After Minnesotans rename the lake, they can put up a marker telling what its previous name had been and why it was changed. Then history, not honor, will result.