

Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes, May 26, 2004

Attendees: Liliana Silvestry-Neilon, Nancy Clark, Gabe Garcia, Jeanne Poppe, Valentina Gallegos, Susan Wagner, Masuka Magambo, Anu Kasturi.

Staff Liaison: Tricia Wiechmann

Approval of minutes approved as read, Garcia moved, Wagner second.

Old business. Update on the Ethnic Festival. The banner will be made in two versions one with the date for the Ethnic Festival and one without. There will not be rides at the Ethnic Festival in fact QPP has canceled their plans to have their company picnic on that same date. There will be publicity for the Ethnic Festival through the Chamber of Commerce newsletter. Gabe is looking for some help getting a generator with 240 volts and wants to know if the city will be able to provide something (he will work with Tricia). The Ethnic Festival will be held on the third Sunday of August from 12noon to 7 PM. Entertainment will include children games done by the CARE council, Polish folk dancers, Mexican, African, Norwegian and German musical acts. There will again be a Health Stand done by the Austin Medical Center and maybe this year the Lions will provide eye/vision screening.

Update by Liliana on the Welcome Center. They have hired a community educator (Yuriel Justine), from a grant from the Bush Foundation.

Update on the Human Rights Code of Ordinance and Bylaws - Tricia contacted David Hoversten the city attorney and he is still in the process of reviewing it. We hope to have it by the June meeting.

New business. We talked about monthly calendar of events, which would include our newspaper column and showing videos with public discussion. We began to formulate some ideas of what would be included in a monthly calendar of events including:

January	Martin Luther King, Jr event Human Rights Award
February	Black History Month Essay contest
March	Essay contest
April	Video showing and public discussion (perhaps related to essay topic)
May	Syttende Mai - Norwegian celebration
June	neighborhood picnics
July	4th of July parade
August	Ethnic Festival Mower County Fair
September	Mexican Independence Day (Sept 16)
October	HOUSING? topic state dept speaker
November	video showing and public discussion
December	St Lucia Day (Swedish)

Reminder next regional meeting will be in Owatonna on June 21. The next Austin HRC meeting will be June 28 at 7:00 PM.