

**Human Rights Commission  
Minutes for December 12, 2006**

Present: Stephanie Haedt, Peter Jacobs, John Hagen, Sue Stevenson, Janet Anderson, Nancy Clark, Liliana Silvestry, Bob Vilt and Tricia Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Marcel Edoh and Scott Monson.

Meeting called to order at 6:35.

Tricia provided a greeting and thank you from Mayor Bonnie Reitz.

Minutes for November 2006 were adopted as submitted.

Agenda was adopted as written.

1. Acknowledgment of Outgoing Member Scott Monson

Scott Monson will not be serving another term. He will be replaced by Bob Vilt. Bob is welcomed to the Commission. Sue Stevenson and John Hagen are accepting another term.

Old Business

2. Essay Contest

It is anticipated that there will be greater participation and more essays this year as another teacher is interested in participating. The topic this year is difficult. Sue Stevenson will check with the literary group to see if they will review the essays again this year. Essays are due March 2. The Commission will then review starting the following Friday for basic compliance prior to submission to the writing group. The winners will be announced at the City Council meeting on March 19. US Bank will provide a donation for prizes. Peter Jacobs will check with the Eagles about a donation. Liliana will inquire at Accentra and Community Bank for donations.

3. Martin Luther King Celebration

The subcommittee has not met yet, will be meeting after the meeting tonight. A tentative speaker is lined up. The committee will see if George Thompson, former Director of the Diversity Council, will speak. The committee would also like additional entertainment. The committee will also look at advertising.

4. Focus Group Presentation

The Commission discussed hosting a panel/forum/town hall meeting in the spring. Need to focus on the rights of everyone, not a particular group. Liliana suggested a speaker from Concordia (he is presenting to the City at a work session). Look for credible speakers that can

answer questions and educate. Myth busters type theme. Tentative date of April 17, 2007, set for this event. Will see if other groups want to cosponsor, maybe the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.

#### 5. Bosnia Educational Piece

Marcel had previously indicated that Greta is not interested.

### New Business

#### 1. Newspaper Column

The January article will run early and will be on the MLK activities. The committee will write the article.

The February article will highlight the spring event.

The March article will publish the winning essays.

#### 2. Rotary Community Day

Set for July 30. Kathy Stutzman will come to the January meeting to discuss the event further and how the HRC can be involved.

#### 3. January Meeting

There will be a special meeting to prepare for the MLK event on January 3, 2007, at 6:30 PM. Location to be determined (see this isn't our regular meeting night).

### Other Business

None.

### Citizens Addressing the Commission

1. Dan Kane addressed the commission – discussed meeting schedule, public posting, and the web page. Discussed the prior forum/panel in October 2005. Dan inquired on our budget; he would like to see the City Council have more awareness of the HRC and increase funding. Dan suggested other knowledgeable resources, Catherine Finley at the University of Minnesota and McAlister (name unknown, will provide to Janet Anderson). Dan would like the HRC to address housing issues again (Commission discussed the recent articles done in Dan's absence and that they were recently rerun).

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Submitted by Stephanie Haedt.