

**Human Rights Commission  
Minutes for September 22, 2008**

Present: Janet Anderson, Stephanie Haedt, Kirsten Lindbloom, John Hagen, Liliana Silvestry, Bob Vilt, Kathryn Martin, and Tricia Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Ron Langrell and Sue Stevenson.

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Agenda

Agenda was approved as amended.

2. Minutes

September 4, 2008 minutes were adopted as written.

3. Approve By-Laws

Commissioner Haedt made a motion to adopt the By-Laws as amended, including the correct approval date of the ordinance by City Council. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Review Meeting Facilitation Grant Request

Commissioner Lindbloom explored options on other facilitators. One possibility is Nancy Frank Wilson. Ms. Wilson has a background in lobbying, marketing and community organization. She is willing to facilitate a discussion to determine where the Commission is at, where it has been and the vision moving forward and to create a plan. She will actually help create the plan, so we have a product at the end. She will charge a flat fee of \$1,000. Look at January or February timeframe.

Commissioner Lindbloom also explored the Minnesota Institute of Public Health for a similar facilitation and plan project, but the cost was higher.

Commissioner Lindbloom will write the grant request. We can continue to explore options, however.

Commissioner Lindbloom spoke to Aysem at the Advocates for Human Rights. The Advocates for Human Rights' focus is immigration and immigration rights. They do educational pieces and the cost is \$100 per hour. Commission may be interested in hosting a public event with a presentation by the Advocates for Human Rights.

5. Other Business

A. Certificate of Appreciation.

Kristen Rinaldi was not present. The certificate of appreciation will be mailed to her.

B. Other Recommendations/Nominations for Certificate of Appreciation

None.

C. Festival Update

Commissioner Lindbloom created a table of the responses received from the survey at the Festival. The Commission discussed circulating the survey to other groups and organizations to obtain additional information. We also discussed putting the survey on our website.

D. Organization for State Conference

Commission discussed transportation issues related to the state conference.

E. Library Activity

Tricia Wiechmann received an email inquiry from Ann Hokanson at the Austin Public Library regarding the Library and Human Rights Commission partnering for an upcoming event. The Smithsonian has a traveling exhibit of Roberto Clemente, from April 11-June 9, 2009. The exhibit will be in English and Spanish. The library will be hosting a speaker during the event. This item will be added to the October agenda for further discussion.

F. Flyer

Commission Hagen brought to the Commissions attention a flyer that was put on his windshield during that evening school board meeting entitled "23 Reasons to Deport Illegal Aliens". Sponsored by the American People's Worker Party. Tricia Wiechmann will forward on to Paul Philipp.

6. Citizens Addressing the Commission

Dan Kane addressed the Commission. Mr. Kane raised the following issues: the Commission was not recognized on the Festival brochure, clarification on budget expenditure for state conference, status of budget request, that HRC develop a plan if "Postville" happen in Austin, Welcome for International Student on September 24, 2008, at 6 p.m. at the library, complimented Commissioner Lindbloom on the presentation and promptness of the survey results.

7. Next Meeting:

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held on October 28, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. at the Austin Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by Stephanie Haedt