

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes for November 17, 2009

Present: Kirsten Lindbloom, Amy Wangen, Kathryn Martin, Sophia Ponce, Steve Wald, Bob Vilt, Ron Langrell, and Trish Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Aaron Stewart, and Troy Nelson.

Guest: Dan Kane.

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Commissioner Lindbloom.

1. Agenda:

Commissioner Martin moved to adopt the agenda as written, Commissioner Wald second, motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of minutes from October 27, 2009:

Commissioner Langrell moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Wald second, motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Of the \$3500.00, media campaign has totaled \$1709.71; membership dues paid to the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions was \$120.75. This leaves a balance of \$1790.29.

4. Austin Human Rights Day Events

At a meeting of APEX Austin, the HBO documentary "Which Way Home" had been suggested for a December showing for Human Rights Day. Commissioner Lindbloom contacted HBO for costs. A run of the film is \$500.00, and to have the director for the showing it's an additional \$500.00. The director, Rebecca Cammisa, called Commissioner Lindbloom to talk about how we could utilize the film, along with her presence, and what the costs could be.

The Human Rights Commission will partner with APEX Austin and the AHS Integration Committee. HRC will help with publicity and evaluation. APEX will help with publicity. Commissioner Lindbloom and Lori Henry wrote a grant for funding for the showing of the film. The plan is to show the film on December 10 at Austin High School and invite students from Hayfield, Southland and Lyle schools. (The general public is not invited to AHS.) The students will have a response time with Rebecca Cammisa and then follow up in their classrooms. The film will then be shown for the general public that evening at the Frank W Bridges Theater at Riverland Community College. There will be opportunity for discussion afterward.

5. Reports

A. Deportee's Wife – 119 people attended. Evaluation results were shared with the Commission this evening. The Austin Human Rights Commission banner is done and was on display at the event.

B. MLK Celebration – APEX Austin and Riverland Global Education Committee would possibly partner with us for this event. We would like to have a celebration at AHS during the day and a celebration somewhere in the evening. We have to find out the cost for use of Frank W Bridges Theater. We will have different performers for the day presentation and for the evening presentation. Our initial idea for a children's book is too long for our program, but Commissioner Lindbloom found a book called "30 Human Rights for Children" that we are considering using. We have opportunities for essays, scenes from plays, and MLK quotes. The next meeting of this committee is at 5 pm on Tuesday, December 15 in the small meeting room at the library (just prior to the regular HRC meeting).

C. Media committee – The brochures "Your 30 Human Rights" are almost finished and hope to be able to distribute them at the Human Rights Day film event. Billboards are up at 2 locations: the Oakland viaduct and the North Main street bridge.

D. Census Committee – No meeting has been held since the last HRC meeting. The next meeting will be Monday December 7 at 4 pm in City Council Chambers.

6. Human Rights Day Conference

The conference will be held on Friday, December 4. It begins at 8 am. The costs are reimbursable through the Otto Bremer grant. Four Commission members are registered: Ron Langrell, Bob Vilt, Sophia Ponce and Kathryn Martin.

7. Other Business

A. Commissioner Lindbloom has contacted the Advocates for Human Rights in regard to a timeline for a response template. She has given them a list of some of the myths the opposition group are using here in Austin. Commissioner Lindbloom will forward items as they come in.

B. Commissioner Vilt stated that his term is up at the end of December and wanted to make sure that the chair is aware.

8. Citizens Addressing the Commission

Mr. Kane requested that the minutes of October 27, 2009 be rewritten and reissued. He asked for a correction to be made in item number 9. Mr. Kane also states he wants to retract his suggestion of an intervention with a member of a local opposition group. He showed the Commission some printed material from New Media for Greater Minnesota, Bluestem Prairie. He is concerned about the increase in volume of coverage the opposition is getting and the negative impact on the community. He thanks Commissioner Ponce for her request of the MLK committee to try to

expand the number of languages used for the celebration.

9. Additional discussion/information

Commissioner Lindbloom made a donation and put the new HRC logo in the CHAI fundraiser cookbook in the heritage section of the book.

Some further discussion was held on the expansion of languages for events.

Commissioner Wangen moved to adjourn at 7:10 pm. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Martin