

**Human Rights Commission
Minutes for August 24, 2010**

Present: Lysie Moritz, Amy Wangen, Kirsten Lindbloom, Jake Vela, Kathryn Martin, Kristi Beckman, and Tricia Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Steve Wald, Ron Langrell, and Aaron Stewart.

Guest: Dan Kane.

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

1. Agenda

Commissioner Moritz moved to adopt the agenda as written, second by Commissioner Vela, motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of June 22, 2010 minutes and of August 10, 2010 special meeting minutes

Commissioner Beckman moved to approve the June 22, 2010 meeting minutes, Commissioner Moritz second, motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wangen moved to approve the August 10, 2010 special meeting minutes, Commissioner Moritz second, motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report

No expenditures since last meeting.

4. Reports/Updates

A. Blue Cross/ Blue Shield Grant Update – Commissioner Lindbloom reported that the Welcome Center has received their grant. BC/BS has accepted our counter offer of \$10,000 cash and \$10,000 in-kind donations. A line item to hire staff to facilitate the work plan is included. This position will be just under ten hours a week. We held a discussion on hiring a person vs. using an entity. Our contract is ready to turn in to BC/BS. The 'New Conversations about Race' training will be led by local approved trainers (Commissioner Beckman is an approved trainer). It will be two to three hours in length and we will try to set dates for September.

B. Census – Commissioner Martin reported that Complete Count Census Committee has not received any report regarding the census in the area.

C. Justice Alan Page – Commissioner Wangen reported that Justice Alan Page will come to Austin High School on Wednesday, March 23, 2011. He will speak and have a Q&A session. The auditorium seats 1,500 and there are 1,200 students so the general public will not be attending.

5. Other Business

- A. A reminder that the HRC will need to begin planning the MLK Jr Celebration soon.
- B. Advocates for Human Rights- Their new activities include “New American” training and a SMIF (Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation) grant to work in the Rochester area on immigrant support.
- C. Commissioner Beckman and Lori Henry are presenting a piece on cultural competency to the Austin School Board. The School District continues to interview and hire positions for cultural support.

6. Citizens Addressing the Commission

Mr. Dan Kane reported that there is a Sudanese Market opening in southeast Austin. He noted that the minutes on our website need to be updated; he states that the last minutes posted are from February. He requests April, May, and June. He noted that our last column in the newspaper is June 2008. He feels he needs to also comment strongly on the ‘Take Me Out’ production. He states that the ---- word was used more than 60 times, which he thought was excessive. He acknowledges that the chair had warned of language at a previous meeting. He is concerned about tax dollars used for this.

Commissioner Wangen moved to adjourn at 6:44 pm. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Martin, secretary