

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes for January 26, 2010

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

Absent: Aaron Stewart.

Guest: Dan Kane.

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by Commissioner Lindbloom.

Agenda was taken out of order while the Commission waited for a Commissioner who was on the way.

The Commission was informed by Commissioner Lindbloom that Lysie Moritz is unable to attend this evening, and that Troy Nelson has resigned from the Commission. There have been applications submitted for his position.

1. Treasurer's Report:

Up to the MLK Celebration \$3200.00 had been spent. For MLK additional sound support was needed at AHS (Austin High School) at a cost of about \$175.00. We have a balance of \$121.70. We need some basic supplies.

2. MLK Report/Feedback:

Trish Wiechmann relayed that she had spoken with City Council Member Janet Anderson who thought the celebration was great and wanted to thank us.

Commissioner Lindbloom reported positive feedback at AHS from students and staff. 134 persons attended the evening celebration.

3. Approval of Minutes from December 15, 2009:

Commissioner Martin requested a change be made in 7.C. to read December 4 instead of December 5. Commissioner Wald moved to accept the minutes with the change, Commissioner Wangen second, motion passed unanimously.

4. Adopt Agenda:

Commissioner Wangen moved to adopt the agenda with no further additions or changes, Commissioner Wald second, motion passed unanimously.

5. Grant - Letter of Intent:

Commissioner Lindbloom provided everyone with a copy of a letter of intent she has written to Blue Cross/Blue Shield regarding a grant they are offering. She also provided the funding guideline requirements. Blue Cross/Blue Shield has contacted Commissioner Lindbloom requesting a formal grant proposal. It is due March 5, 2010. Commissioner Lindbloom and Commissioner Wangen have been working on the proposal using our work plan. The Human Rights Commission is on the agenda for the next City Council work session agenda to request permission to go forward.

6. Partnership with RCC Generations Programming:

Commissioner Lindbloom presented an opportunity in March, perhaps the 18th, for partnership with Riverland Community College Generations Program. Peggy Young, Coordinator, has asked if a showing of *Which Way Home* would be possible. Commissioner Lindbloom contacted Mudd Productions and they have agreed to a free showing. The Advocates for Human Rights will do an Immigration 101 workshop in the evening.

7. Next Film:

Commissioner Lindbloom opened discussion for the next film we would like to show. It was decided to plan for April, perhaps involve the AHS Integration Committee, and look at using a movie topic from the Sudan struggle. Commissioner Lindbloom will ask Anna Donnelly for suggestions and Commissioner Martin will begin to gather information on available films from the State Human Rights Commission, the Advocates for Human Rights, etc. Commissioner Wangen moved to have a film about Sudan in April, Commissioner Langrell second, motion passed unanimously.

Discussion evolved into broadening our events to include more issues. Commissioner Langrell moved to develop a plan to highlight all characteristics identified by the Commission. List them on a calendar so none are omitted, with a goal of a two year time frame to cover them all. Commissioner Wald second, motion passed unanimously.

8. Reports:

A. MLK Event – Discussion and comments continued on MLK. We discussed contacting Chief Justice Alan Page. Commissioner Wangen will commit to pursuing that.

B. Census Committee – Commissioner Martin reported on a meeting of January 11. Four or five people attended in addition to the two census officials. Meeting times were set for two meetings in February and everyone on the committee will be notified right away. The meeting times will be Monday, February 1 at 4 pm in Council Chambers and Monday, February 22 at 4 pm in Council Chambers. Mayor Stiehm reported he had gone to Queen of Angels Church. He offered boxes of items brought to him by census officials with 2010 Census logos. Items included refrigerator clip/magnets in English and in Spanish, pens and booklets of post it notes, penlights, water bottles, paper materials and pamphlets. Martin talked about the grant we are applying for to put up 3 billboards and to print postcard-type reminders that can be distributed at grocery stores, Department of Human Services, churches: places where people are.

C. Essay Contest – Trish Wiechmann reported that information has been sent out to schools for the annual essay contest. The deadline to turn in essays to us is March 15. Some commissioners volunteered to screen the essays.

9. Other Business:

Commissioner Wangen asked if we could assist with presenting a break out session for Riverland staff on the morning of April 9. We will need more information. It was asked if Stage Left could be part of the day.

10. Citizens Addressing the Commission:

Mr. Dan Kane addressed the commission. He commented on MLK – it was terrific that we gave a voice to students. He was touched by a student who said “we don’t remember what it is to need.” He suggests a community wide day of service. It could unite a variety of folks. He is very curious as to why the minutes don’t reflect discussion on his e-mail. He renews his request for responses to the December e-mail. Commissioners Wangen, Lindbloom, and Martin then provided some verbal feedback to Mr. Kane. Trish Wiechmann also provided some clarifications.

Our next meeting will be February 23 at 6 pm. Commissioner Martin moved to adjourn at 7:34 pm. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Martin