

MINUTES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CITY OF AUSTIN
Tuesday, June 26, 2001

PRESENT: Gabe Garcia, Virginia Larsen, Tricia Wiechmann, Karl Dalager, John Hagen, Liliana Silvestry.

ABSENT: Nancy Clark, Watsana Thiravong, Lee Bjorndal, and Pat MacLean.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Garcia at 7:10 p.m. Karl moved to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2001 meeting as written, Virginia seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

1. Ethnic festival posters: Liliana passed out flyers and posters for the ethnic festival to be held on Sunday, July 5, 2001. Everyone took some posters and signed up for places to take them. Tricia suggested passing out the small flyers at the parade (Riverland and Welcome Center will be having a float).
2. Human Rights brochures: Tricia brought the new brochures for the committee to see. We received 1,000 in each English and Spanish. Some members took brochures for distribution. We will have the brochures available at the Ethnic Festival.

Discussed the process for distributing the brochures. Possibly sending a letter to a 'developed' list, letting them know we have the brochures and that someone will be around to drop them off. By doing this, we can 1) give them the option for not wanting the brochures, 2) give them a 'heads up' before someone show up, 3) give them contact information in case they need more. Tricia will put together a list and send around by either email or mail to get input from everybody. This will be done over the summer, since the Commission doesn't meet again until September 25.

3. Ethic Festival: Liliana provided an update for everybody regarding the plans for the July 8 event. Commission members signed up for time at the Human Rights table.

12:00 – 1:00	Karl
1:00 – 1:30	Gabe
1:30 – 2:30	John
2:30 – 3:30	Virginia
3:30 – 4:00	open

Commission members will be there to hand out brochures and answer questions. Any commission members that are there on Sunday and are willing to help at the Festival should check in with Liliana. THANKS!

4. Other:
US Bank check cashing policy – Liliana reported that US Bank requires a thumbprint for people who do not have an account at the bank and for those that tellers do not recognize.

This was a follow-up to someone possibly being discriminated against. It was found that this was not the case and that this individual did not have an account there.

Meeting with Police Chief – Gabe reported on a meeting between George Thomas and himself with Chief Paul Philipp. This was a result from discussions at the most recent Blandin event. Gabe indicated that the meeting went well.

Diversity Awareness Series – Tricia reported that she sent a letter to the Austin Chamber (Sandy Forstner) with a copy of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce Diversity Awareness Series information. This was in an attempt to see if Austin would do something like this.

Liliana informed the commission about a meeting-taking place on June 30 (Sat.) from 3:00 – 5:00 at the First Congregation Church between Chief Philipp and members from the Sudanese community. All Human Rights Commission members are invited to attend.

Please mark your calendars. The next Human Rights Commission meeting is TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, AT 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Wiechmann