

MINUTES  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
CITY OF AUSTIN

Thursday, September 26, 2002

PRESENT: Gabe Garcia, John Hagen, Masuka Magambo, Anu Kasturi, Tricia Wiechmann and Pat MacLean.

ABSENT: Liliana Silvestry-Neilon, Brandon Lawhead, Nancy Clark and Karl Dalager.

The meeting was called to Order by Chair Garcia at 6:10 PM. Minutes of the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting were approved as written.

Old Business:

1. Diversity Event: The second annual Diversity Event was held at Todd Park on August 18. It was reported there was a good turnout, the site is favorable and, overall, the event was a success.
2. Written Complaint Procedure: Liliana and Nancy were not here to report. Table until the October meeting.

Discussion Topics:

1. Apex Education Committee: Tabled until the October meeting when Nancy can report.
2. Tony Orange for possible diversity program at Austin High: Masuka brought information on Tony Orange who has done diversity programs for Austin Medical Center. He is from ProGroup, and costs between \$1500 and \$3000, depending on the type of program(s) selected. ProGroup can also conduct surveys both of teachers and students. It was suggested we find out what kind of surveys they do and see if they will send sample surveys for us to review. Ways to possibly fund this include a request to the APEX Education Committee or some other type of grant.

It was reported that Key Club, an affiliate of Kiwanis, is becoming more active at the high school. It was suggested we work through them or the National Honor Society or Student Council. Trish will contact the advisor of Key Club. We agreed that some kind of survey of both students, teachers and administrators would be a good first step to identify if there is a need for diversity training at the high school. Trish will contact the part-time social worker or intern for more input. The Commission agreed that it is important to use a non-threatening approach to this project.

3. The Wilder Foundation is conducting a series of community circles to explore the educational needs of newcomers to Austin who are from various ethnic backgrounds.

Gabe and Musuka agreed to be part of the circles if needed. Pat will submit their names to the committee organizing the circles.

4. KAUS tape: Pat didn't bring it, but plans to have it by the next meeting.

Other Business:

1. Essay Contest: Trish will see if the State HR Commission will send info on this year's topic so it can be distributed to schools in time for Austin students to participate.
2. Complaint: Someone called Gabe to complain about a local business. He did not give his name and Gabe invited him to tonight's meeting, but he did not show up.
3. Trish sent additional brochures to the Police Department and will send to other places as needed.
4. It was agreed it would be good for the Human Rights Commission to develop a local project. Members are to bring ideas to the October meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7 PM.

**The October meeting is Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM. Please call Tricia or Gabe if you cannot attend.**