

MINUTES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CITY OF AUSTIN MINNESOTA
February 27, 2003

PRESENT: Sue Wagner, Anu Kasturi, Masuka Magambo, Nancy Clark, John Hagen, Gabe Garcia, Pat MacLean, Jeanne Poppe. Tricia Wiechmann, HR, city liaison.

Roxanna from the Austin Post Bulletin.

Absent: Liliana Silvestry-Neilon

The meeting was called to order by Nancy at 6:10 pm. The minutes were approved as read.

1. Essay Contest. There are 17 entries and they will go to the judge tomorrow. Polly Jelinek will be the judge (others were asked but only Polly will do it). The prizes will be 1st place \$150, 2nd place - \$100 and 3rd place - \$50. The following financial institutions contributed savings bonds: Hormel Credit Union (\$100), Wells Fargo (\$50), Sterling State Bank (\$50), and US Bank (Gabe is hoping for \$100). Gabe will be going to pick up the US Bank and Sterling savings bonds. Nancy will invite the top three winners to the city council meeting of March 17, 2003. The human rights commission members are also asked to be there by 5:15 pm. The media will be there to take photos. All entrants will receive a certificate of participation.
2. Survey questions/discussion. Some discussion was held about the Patrick Flanagan public meeting that was held earlier in the week. In attendance were apparently only 7 or 8 from the public along with the mayor, police chief and media. It wasn't well publicized (no one on the HR commission knew about it). The topic was legal and safety issues. We discussed the Wilder information and asked what we could do with this information. Jeanne talked about the League of Women Voters information on immigration and suggested the League and HR commission could co-sponsor a forum that would help to dispel the myths. It was also suggested we get more up to date stats and information from Mower County. We also want to see the entire report from the Wilder Foundation and see how it might address youth in our community.
3. In other business we talked briefly about the PEACE gathering that was held in Albert Lea. Tricia mentioned the proposal going around on email to pray at 3:03 on 3/3/03. Sue W. mentioned how the school districts will be "down to mandates" because there will be no money to do beyond that. It was agreed that being short-sighted in our approach to this budget problem would likely lead to other greater problems – the need will swell in another area.

Meeting adjourned approximately 7:15 pm with a reminder to attend the council meeting on 3/17/03.

Submitted by: Jeanne Poppe