

Austin Human Rights Commission
April 21, 2004 meeting minutes

Attendees: Nancy Clark, Gabe Garcia, Anu Kasturi, John Hagen, Susan Wagner, Masuka Mogambo, Jeanne Poppe. Tricia Wiechmann, city liaison.

The March minutes were approved as amended.

Old Business: The Ethnic Festival committee has already awarded prizes on the poster contest. There were 17 or 18 entries and the group decided to award a dual first place. One will be used as a large banner and the other will be used for the poster and for Tshirts. The \$200 first place money will be split between the two. The posters were returned to the entrants with the request they would return them on the Friday before the Ethnic Festival to be displayed. The display will be at the Ikes Cabin at Todd Park.

The idea came up to see about using the artwork as calendar art perhaps in the Austin Public Schools calendar – Tricia will check with Sharon Alms of the school system.

It was reported that QPP will be hosting their picnic on the same date as the Ethnic Festival. The big concern will be the Merriam rides – they are scheduled to be at the fairgrounds and it might be difficult to bring those to the Todd Park. The committee will be working on ways to combine the two events.

Review of city code. With some changes and rewritings we have gotten the code to read how we want and so will send it on to the city attorney. Wagner moved, Hagen second to send on to City Attorney. On the bylaws it was moved (Wagner) and seconded (Garcia) to approve the bylaws. After the City Attorney has reviewed, they will come back to the Commission to review any suggested changes. The Commission will approve once again this time with a recommendation that the City Council approve. Representatives from the Commission will present the recommended items to the City Council at a work session.

Report of the April 19 meeting with the regional human rights group: good turnout from all cities. There is another meeting scheduled for June 21 in Owatonna. We will want to figure out what types of events we will support regionally. We talked about the videos that Nancy had alerted us to last meeting. We can also see if KSMQ-TV, public library, Riverland Library and Parenting Resource Center are owners of any of the videos we are interested in showing. **By next meeting, all members should go through the list of videos and see what ones might be of interest.** There was some talk of involving the Rochester Diversity Council – Johnathan Green of Albert Lea, Gary Williams of Albert Lea and Gabe Garcia of Austin would go the Rochester to visit them sometime in the summer.

New Business: Gabe brought up the suggestion of doing quarterly articles for the newspapers from the Human Rights Commission. The two newspapers would be Austin Daily Herald and Austin Post Bulletin. We could determine topics ahead of time and determine who would be responsible for sending in the articles. For now we would send a letter or otherwise contact the

newspapers to determine if they are open to us doing that. We also can set up our schedule of events for the next year which could also lead into article topics that we would do each quarter.

Jeanne mentioned that today was a day of silence in support of gay, lesbian, and transgender issues. The Riverland Community Gay Straight Alliance sponsored the day and encouraged people to remain silent as an awareness tool for people in the college and community.

Jeanne and Tricia also mentioned that an Austin resident contacted them regarding the HRC possibly doing some training about civil rights. This individual is working with a group in the Twin Cities who could possibly be available as co-sponsors if we want to do something on that order.

A reminder that our next meeting is on **Wednesday, May 19 at 7 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Poppe, secretary