

Human Rights Commission  
August 18, 2004  
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Commissioners Stephanie Haedt, Susan Wagner, Jeanne Poppe, John Hagen, Liliana Silvestry, Gabe Garcia  
Public: Dan Kane

Gabe Garcia called the meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm when quorum was reached.

Welcome to new Commissioner Stephanie Haedt. Stephanie met some of the commission members at the regional meeting on Monday evening, August 16.

June 28 meeting minutes stood approved.

Old business. Ethnic Festival will take place this Sunday. Liliana reported people will be setting up beginning at 9 am. She has confirmed with Trish that generators will be there Sunday morning filled with gas. Gabe mentioned there likely will be a need to refill the generators sometime during the day on Sunday. HRC members are asked to sign up for designated times to work at the table. People's choice voting for the artwork will take place in the Izaak Walton cabin. T shirts for the festival will be given to workers but will not be for sale. Welcome Center will sell bottles of water. There will be Boy scouts, Parenting Resource Center and 7 other tables packed into the 20 x 20 tent.

Liliana mentioned she had some concern about the communication as she requested the generators, although the city administrator was open to us using them, it might not have been conveyed clearly to the people who actually would be setting up the generators.

Valentina is busy this week with 42 kids from the Global Volunteers group. She is the coordinator and likely that is why she is not at tonight's meeting.

Newspaper column – Stephanie suggested looking at what Olmsted County has used. She stated they use a question/answer format. There is information on the Human Rights website including a new section on Housing. She indicated she would be willing to write or prepare the articles. Susan offered to work with Nancy to prepare the first article for the September column which would be an introduction of the HRC. It could include information about when we meet, who we are and info about the website. Stephanie volunteered to do the October article regarding housing. We would hope to do the articles on a quarterly basis but would write one initially in September as an introductory one. In January we will be able to talk about the MLK celebration.

We tabled discussion regarding the video. Jeanne said she would talk to Trish about the calendar of events and the video. We would then present a plan of action to discuss at the September 15 meeting.

Saturday October 9 is the MN HRC meeting. Our next regional meeting with Owatonna and Albert Lea will be on Monday October 11 in Albert Lea.

Gabe will see if the Banner that has been purchased by HRC can be displayed at the public library. We will try to get some sort of photo of him presenting it to the library for display to again draw attention to the HRC.

John asked Liliana if she has tabulation of categories of inquiries to the Welcome Center that seem to be HR related. Liliana indicated she likely could come up with some information. Dan Kane offered information that only 6 complaints have been submitted to the MN HR Department from Mower County.

Dan Kane asked questions of the HRC including where were the agenda and minutes from the most recent meeting they didn't appear on the website. He also asked at what volume the brochures were printed, the cost of the brochures and where they were distributed. He also stated he understood Liliana to say that the MN dept of HR makes quarterly visits to the Welcome Center and he was wondering if that was still happening. Liliana indicated that the MN dept is not doing that. Dan also made some comments regarding the video suggestions. John directed some comments at Dan telling him he felt some of Dan's line of questioning seemed unreasonable and some of his comments were inappropriate.

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting will be September 15, 2004. We discussed trying to hold our meetings at the public library rather than in the basement of city hall. We will see if that is a possibility.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Poppe  
HRC secretary