

Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2004

Attendees: Gabe Garcia, John Hagen, Nancy Clark, Jeanne Poppe, Valentina Gallegos, Masuka Mogambo, Anu Kasturi, Susan Wagner
Staff: Trish Wiechmann. Guests: Jim Peck
Media: Roxanna O – Austin Post Bulletin, Matt M – Austin Daily Herald
Citizens: Dan Kane

Minutes from December meeting were approved.

MLK, Jr. Event. Publicity has been sent to media, posters were put up in downtown kiosks, at the Hormel plant, at Riverland Community College, at the public and parochial high schools. Trish reported that 80 Pacelli high school students will march and attend the program but won't be staying for lunch.

Liliana has been the contact for food – we are expecting to have two kinds of soup. St. Olaf Church donated \$75 toward the cost of the food. We are planning for 75 people to eat.

Jim Peck has been in contact with Neil Erickson of St. Olaf Church regarding the music. Jim is the chair of the Welcome Center and a congregational minister. He said he grew up in Atlanta and on a visit this past fall he went to the MLK center and got some materials we can use for the celebration (lapel buttons, postcards with quotes). Jim will give the main address for the program. He will set the work of MLK in context. He and Trish will work together on the order of the program including speakers and music. Jim also has received a letter from Coretta Scott King that he has given to the Mayor and suggested that the Mayor may want to read as a part of her greeting.

Dan Kane asked a question about the number of people of color who will be participating in the program. Jim Peck indicated that he has some nice cards with quotes on them and suggested that we may want people to read these quotes throughout the event. Jeanne volunteered to make contact with 6 people (perhaps college students) who would be available to read the quotes. Masuka volunteered to be one of those readers.

Virginia Larsen and Mayor Bonnie Rietz will be able to speak. The mayor will give a welcome and Ms. Larsen will give the presentation of Father Paul Nelson. Father Nelson will not be in attendance for the program to receive the Human Rights Award but the presentation will be talked about. We will want to host a reception for Father Nelson sometime in February and Trish will check with him on a date that works into his schedule. It will most likely be on a Saturday at the Austin Public Library. If we are able to coordinate ahead of time, we will be able to announce it at the MLK event and Trish will do flyers to distribute.

Tuesday night, January 20, Elizabeth Endres, the winner of the essay contest will be awarded her \$50 savings bond at the Austin City Council meeting. We are not sure if she can come to the

MLK event. Nancy Clark will introduce her during the program and if she is available and wants to, Elizabeth can read her essay.

Annual Ethnic Festival. The next meeting will be Wed January 21 at the Welcome Center. John Hagen and Susan Wagner represent our group at the meetings.

Other. Jeanne mentioned that Celeste Ruble Human Resources Director at Riverland Community College is interested in having the area Human Rights Commissions come together and learn about the diversity grant the college has received. It is also an opportunity for the HRC to come together and learn from each other. We could learn what each does, how much money each one has, what kinds of activities are planned. It will be good for our HRC as we begin considering what direction we want to take and clearly defining what we want to become. Jeanne will set up meeting for the regional HRC meeting. Tentatively it will be set for Tuesday February 10 with our next Austin HRC meeting on Wed February 11 at 7 pm.

Officer elections were discussed but not acted on.

Meeting adjourned. Masuka motion, Valentina second.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Poppe, secretary