

Minutes
Human Rights Commission
November 17, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 in small meeting room of the Austin Public Library. Those members present were: John Hagen, Stephanie Haedt, Liliana Silvestry, Gabe Garcia, Sue Wagner, and Nancy Clark.

Also present were City Liaison Trish Wiechmann and visitor Dan Kane.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as corrected.

Sub-committee reports were given. The sub-committee working on the City Forum had not met. Trish had talked with Captain Rude and Mayor Rietz about what the Human Rights Commission wants to accomplish with this forum. No date has been established for this event.

The video sub-committee had not met. Ann Hokanson is checking about videos for us to use.

The Martin Luther King event committee had not met. Liliana had talked with Christ Episcopal Church about holding the event at their church, but the church is too small. Nancy will contact First United Methodist Church about using their facility to hold the event there. Nominations for the Annual Human Rights Award need to be made. Trish will put out the usual mailings, asking that nominations be turned in to the City Office by December 10. The MLK Event will be held January 17 with a walk and speakers.

The essay committee had not met. They will write a setter to be sent out the middle schools. The committee will announce the topic at the MLK event in January.

No calendar of events had been established.

Newspaper Articles: No one had seen the initial article that was to be in the Austin Daily Herald in October. Trish had called and left a message with Matt questioning if we had missed the article. Her called wasn't returned. Stephanie brought her article on tenant rights for the committee to review and make suggestions. Hopefully it will be in the Herald in November. The committee agreed upon adding another article in December concerning Tenant Rights. The article for January will discuss discrimination. The February article will be about the essay contest.

The commission discussed our thoughts about the misconception of statistics.

Our budget for the year 2005 was reduced by 5% to \$285.00. Other committees were also reduced by 5%. Individual requests by committees will be considered by the City Council.

Under New Business: Anyone interested in attending the December 3 Human Rights Day Conference should contact Trish.

The next Regional Meeting will probably be held in January in Owatonna.

Dan Kane addressed the Commission. He had questions regarding our budget request. He asked if our budget included paying out the fee of \$150.00 to the State League. Dan also made comments and suggestions on the article about Tenant Rights. He gave the Commission copies of information that he had gathered.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM. Our next meeting will be December 15 in the Small Meeting room at the Austin Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Clark, Co-Chair