

Human Rights Commission Minutes for April 20, 2005

Present: Nancy Clark, John Hagen, Gabe Garcia, Stephanie Haedt, Sue Stevenson, Scott Monson, Sue Wagner, Peter Jacobs, and Tricia Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Liliana Silvestry.

Meeting called to order 6:31 p.m.

Minutes approved as written.

1. Reports

Forum Committee

The forum committee has met. The focus is to educate the Commission and particular key people of interest to build a larger support basis. We are starting this with Kristin Mannix coming to speak and hope to have more presentations. Everyone will think about other possible speakers or presenters. The sub-committee hopes to meet after the Regional meeting, but before the next regular meeting to further explore these ideas.

Regional Meeting

We are unsure who will be attending. Owatonna may send a few commissioners. It will be held on the large meeting room in the library at 7:00 p.m. Invited guests include members of the Austin Public School Board, Dr. Raskin, Amy Baskin, APEX Austin, courthouse members, Workforce Center staff, and staff from Riverland. Coffee and cookies will be provided.

Essay Contest

Irma Flores received first place. Sunny Mao placed second and Kimberly Saenz third. All are eighth graders. Suggestions for next year were to start earlier. Maybe speak to the schools and see if they would incorporate it into their curriculum. The most successful year was where a teacher worked it into his course. The difficulty is the topic is not released until August. Another suggestion for next year is to make posters. Sue Wagner will write the Herald article for May regarding the essay contest; it is due May 6.

2. New Business

Ethnic Festival

It was questioned whether the Commission would have a role in this year's ethnic festival and if so, what. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Guest Speaker - Dr. Raskin

Dr. Raskin will be invited to speak to the Commission regarding graduation rates.

3. Citizens Addressing the Committee

Dane Kane addressed the Commission. He summarized the last year, his observation and the things and topics he would like to see the Commission address.

Next meeting is May 18, 2005, at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Stephanie Haedt