

## **Human Rights Commission Minutes for August 3, 2005**

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

Absent: Sue Wagner, Liliana Silvestry, and Scott Monson.

Meeting called to order at 6:41 p.m.

Agenda approved.

June 2005 Minutes adopted as written.

### **1. Committee Reports**

#### **Forum Committee**

The forum committee met and decided to move the forum to Race Equality Week. It will be held on Thursday, September 29, 2005. The committee reported on possible panelist and asked for suggestions from the Commission. A possible facilitator was also discussed. [Candidates' names have intentional been excluded from the minutes at this point in time.] The committee will do the newspaper article for September. The Committee will meet again and report back. It was requested that the Committee discuss promotions for the event at the next Committee meeting.

It was suggested that a slide show of a montage of pictures from our community of individuals of various ethnicities and nationalities be shown as a prelude to the panel. Peter's mother-in-law is a good photographer. He will check with her to see if she would be interested.

### **2. New Business**

#### **Ethnic Festival**

Tricia will circulate via e-mail a sign-up sheet for the HRC table at the Ethnic Festival. Tricia will follow-up with Liliana regarding obtaining a copy of the letter sent to local businesses regarding donating to the Festival. Tricia acquired the prizes for the fishing game at the Festival. Sue Stevenson obtained large boxes that will be painted. Candy is still needed for the Festival. Tricia will obtain that. She will also have the pamphlets available for the table and create a temporary banner.

#### **HRC Banner**

A motion was made and carried to consider the purchase of a permanent HRC banner. Tricia will check into the cost and submit a request to the City. In conjunction with this, a motion was made and carried to consider a mission statement or slogan. Suggestion

should be circulated via e-mail.

### **Newspaper Article**

The September article will be on Race Equality Week and the panel. The Committee will write it.

The August newspaper article deadline is August 12 and will be published on August 21. It will be written by Sue Stevenson. It will cover a variety of topics including 1- that “today” is the Ethnic Festival, 2- visit the HRC at the Festival and a little about the Commission and when we meet, 3- preview our upcoming events, including Race Equality Week festivities - the panel and “Taste of Austin”.

The October article will be a parenting article for parents to teach their children about equality. It will include suggested reading. Sue Stevenson will draft this article.

### **Race Equality Week**

Race Equality Week is September 26-29. A motion was made and carried to have a “Taste of Austin” celebration in conjunction with Race Equality Week and the panel. A committee was formed, including, Gabe Garcia, Peter Jacobs, and Nancy Clark. The Committee will meet and report at the next meeting.

### 3. Other Business

#### **Essay Contest**

The Essay information is not out yet. We will revisit this issue at the next meeting, as the topic information usually comes out in August.

#### **August Meeting**

The regular August meeting was moved from the third Wednesday to the fourth, August 24, 2005. Tricia will check the availability of the library conference room.

#### **Pool**

It was brought to the Commission’s attention that there is a language barrier difficulty at the Austin Municipal Pool between children who speak other languages and the lifeguards. Few lifeguards speak other languages and the signs are only posted in English.

## **Ukrainian Visit**

At the Paramount Theater on Thursday, August 10, 2005, there will be a concert for visiting Ukrainian journalists. It is open to the public. A barbeque will follow in the evening at Veterans' Pavilion.

## **Global Language Camp**

Global Language Camp is an ESL camp. Volunteers are still needed. If you are interested, go to the meeting on Saturday, August 6, at 6:30 p.m. There are volunteers coming from all over the country to facilitate this event. The Camp is sponsored by APEX Austin.

### 4. Citizens Addressing the Committee

None.

Adjourned 8:18 p.m.

Next meeting is August 24, 2005\*, at 6:30 p.m. at the Austin Public Library.

Submitted by: Stephanie Haedt

\*Please note the date change!