

**Human Rights Commission
Minutes for January 19, 2005**

Present: Peter Jacobs, John Hagen, Gabe Garcia, Nancy Clark, Stephanie Haedt, Liliana Silvestry, Susan Wagner, Scott Monson, Tricia Wiechmann.

Absent: Valentina Gallegos.

Meeting called to order 6:05.

Minutes approved as written.

Old Business:

1. MLK Day Celebration

The newspaper and media did a wonderful job of covering the event. The speaker was great. It was a complete success. For next year, to improve, our goal is more community involvement. The high school wants to coordinate next year on the event also. Next year we may want to consider starting the day with a prayer service or a breakfast. Next year MLK Day is on Monday, January 16, 2006.

2. Mixed Blood

The big questions are who will spearhead the event and who will finance it. Riverland is not interested in co-sponsoring the event. Other possible sources of funding are the City and the library. One performance is \$900; there is a discount for a second performance. Maybe the County our utilities will go in and use a performance as a training session. A motion was made and approved for Mixed Blood in September or October. A subcommittee was established to coordinate the event, including, Scott Monson, Gabe Garcia, and they will seek the assistance of Ann Hokanson, Library Director.

New Business:

1. New Member

New member Scott Monson was introduced to the Commission.

2. Elections

Officers were elected for 2005 as follows:

Stephanie Haedt - Secretary
Liliana Silvestry – Co-Chair
Scott Monson – Co-Chair

3. Forum

The forum committee updated the commission on their committee meeting and conclusions. The committee determined that a forum is not the proper approach at this time. They are worried about the format and that it could be hijacked. The committee will remain in tact and explore other options, including have presentations continued by outside groups at the state level.

4. Essay Contest

Sue and Nancy are writing the article. It will be sent to Trish. The commission will ask the local service clubs for monetary donations for the prize, including the VFW, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, and Knights of Columbus. The packets will be distributed at Ellis and to 7th and 8th graders at Pacelli. Nancy will check to see if the Minnesota League of Women Voters would read the essays this year.

5. Newspaper Articles

Stephanie to do March article on tenants rights. Will discuss April article at the February meeting.

6. Meeting start time

Motion was made and carried to change the start time of the meeting to 6:30 p.m.

7. Video Committee Update

The videos that were selected from the Bullfrog list and viewed by the committee did not suit our purpose. We need a video that is more general. Trish will check with the state Human Rights Commission to see if they have any suggestions. Video committee will continue to and report back next month.

8. Regional Meeting

No word from Owatonna.

Citizens Address the Committee

Dan noted that the minutes of the last meeting did not include his concerns relative to the budget. Dan inquired into what the Commission was doing for Black history month. Nancy indicated that it was not something we chose to do this year.

Submitted by: Stephanie Haedt