

Human Rights Commission Meeting  
Austin Public Library  
January 5, 2005  
6:00 PM

Present: Nancy Clark, Peter Jacobs, Susan Wagner, Stephanie Haedt, Liliana Silvestry and John Hagen.

Absent: Gabe Garcia, Valentina Gallegos and Scott Monson.

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM.

Minutes from previous meeting were approved with the correction of a few typographical errors.

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration will be in conjunction with Austin High Schools speaker, Otis Woodard. We will march from the Methodist Church to AHS. Otis is a previous recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. award and a Jefferson award. He runs a homeless program in St. Louis. Mr. Woodard will also be speaking at Our Saviors Lutheran church that weekend.

The Committee previewed a sample flyer for the event and Liliana will translate the flyers into Spanish. The Welcome Center will provide two kinds of soup, bread and juice. The Methodist Church will provide coffee, cookies and the volunteers to clean up the kitchen and serve the food.

There were two nominations for the annual Human Rights award, Maryann Law and Norm Hecimovich. Liliana moved and John seconded to give the award to Maryann Law. The committee carried this motion.

The Community Forum committee gave their report. They have some concerns about who will be there and need to identify and invite key community leaders. Additional discussion was deferred to the January 19th meeting.

Update on the news article. The first two articles appeared in December. Liliana's article the Seeds of Discrimination will be in January. Nancy and Susan will write an article for February on the essay topic. The March article will be on the community forum and perhaps we could run it at the end of Feb.

Election of new officers was deferred to the January 19th meeting.

New Business:

The Mixed Blood Theater group is available in September or October to do a presentation on the accomplishments of Chicanos in Minnesota. The committee thought this sounded like an excellent idea and was wondering if the City of Austin could make a financial contribution towards this performance. No one has received a date from Owatonna for the next regional human rights meeting.

Dan Kane was a community visitor and he wondered if Ms. Poppe was still a commission member and if her position had been filled. He was told that she had resigned her position and that it had already been filled.

Submitted by:

Susan Wagner