

Minutes for March 16, 2005

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

Absent: Peter Jacobs, Liliana Silvestry, and Nancy Clark.

Meeting called to order 6:34 p.m.

Minutes approved as written.

1. Regional Meeting

Tricia e-mailed the various commissions and indicated Austin would be willing to host the next regional meeting and requested suggested dates in April. We may try for the third or fourth Monday. Stephanie will again try to contact Kristen Mannix of the Diversity Council in Rochester to see if she or someone from the Council would be interested in being a guest speaker.

2. Town Hall Meeting on "Immigration and You" held on March 12

John attended the event. He believed there were about 75 people in attendance, mostly senior individuals and P-9ers. Filled with inciting speech and assumptions that all Hispanics are illegal immigrants. Mayor Reitz was sharply criticized.

The discussion evolved to education and the schools. The issue of graduation rate of minorities came up. Tricia will contact Dr. Raskin to see if she will come speak to us this summer about district wide graduation numbers.

3. Forum Committee Report

The Committee has not met since the last meeting. They hope to do so before next month.

4. Newspaper Articles

Liliana will be writing the April article. She would like input into it. She will prepare a draft for comment.

The May article with reprint portions of the winning essay.

Discussed possibly submitting the articles to the El Matador. Gabe will contact them to see if there is a cost and if it would be possible to publish in the paper. Scott will also see if the Austin Daily Herald will print some Spanish articles.

5. Other Business

Sue indicated she would be at the mall on Saturday, April 9, with CARE (Children are the Responsibility of Everyone). She requested that the leftover bookmarks, with suggested reading, be set out on the table. Tricia will get the bookmarks to her.

6. Essay Contest

Two members of AAUW will be reading and judging the essays. The winner will be recognized at the City Council meeting on April 4 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjourned 7:40 p.m.

Next meeting is April 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Stephanie Haedt