

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

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

Absent: Sue Wagner and Nancy Clark.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM.

Agenda amended to include open Commission seats at the end of 2005. Agenda adopted as amended.

Minutes adopted as written.

Committee Reports

1. Forum/Panel Committee

The Forum Committee met and conducted a debriefing. The Committee will continue as a Committee and hopes to coordinate future events to maintain momentum and continue to build support. In the future, a questionnaire will be used at events to better evaluate if and what advertising is working to attract citizens to Commission activities.

2. National Coming Out Day

Approximately 25 people attended the event. The event had good media coverage. It was a positive event.

3. Essay Contest

Tricia Wiechmann prepared the packets and they are ready for distribution. Nancy will speak to Sue Wagner to see if she will handle distribution in the catholic schools. Nancy has spoke to the public schools. Teacher Jill Rollie is the contact. The Commission will need to solicit support from service groups or businesses for prizes.

4. MLK Day

Sue Stevenson is working on coordinating a speaker for the event.

5. Banner

Liliana was to check on the cost of the banner. No report was available due to Liliana's absence.

6. Laurie Henry

No update was available due to Nancy Clark's absence.

7. Taste of Austin

The Committee has not met since the last meeting.

New Business

1. State Annual Human Rights Conference

John Hagen attended the state conference. He strongly recommends the Commissioners attend in the future.

2. Annual Human Rights Award

The Annual Human Rights Award is presented in conjunction with the MLK Day celebration. Tricia Wiechmann provided nomination forms to the Commissioners. Suggested revisions to the forms are to be provided to Tricia Wiechmann via e-mail.

3. Commission Vacancies and Appointments

The seats of Gabe Garcia, Sue Wagner, and Stephanie Haedt will expire at the end of 2005. Stephanie Haedt will remain on the Commission. Gabe Garcia will be stepping down. Sue Wagner's intention is unknown. Stephanie Haedt indicated Michael Owuor has expressed interest in joining the Commission. Tricia Wiechmann will provide his name to Mayor Reitz.

4. Newspaper

The November newspaper article will regard the Annual Human Rights Award. Scott Monson will write the article.

Stephanie Haedt will draft an article on immigration to be used at some later, undetermined date.

Citizens Addressing the Commission

No citizens present.

Meeting adjourned 7:35 p.m.

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held on November 16, 2005, at 6:30PM, at the Austin Public Library.

Submitted by Stephanie Haedt.