

**Human Rights Commission  
Minutes for September 21, 2005**

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

Absent: Scott Monson and Sue Wagner.

Meeting called to order at 6:37 p.m.

Minutes adopted as written.

Committee Reports

1. Forum/Panel Committee

The forum provided the Commission with an update, including the names of the confirmed panelists and other panelists with whom the committee are following up on. The forum will be televised live and run the following weekend on Saturday and Sunday. Roger will not be able to moderate. Scott has agreed to step in. Sue Stevenson will write questions in case we need them. The audience will be allowed to submit questions, but it will be in written format to allow review of the questions. The panelist will arrive 15 minutes prior to the forum.

2. National Coming Out Day

Virginia is unable to do the event, but recommended a couple from Rochester. Sue Stevenson called the couple and they will do the event. The couple has a 40-year-old son that is gay. They will discuss their struggles and acceptance of them and their son. There will be a discussion following the presentation. Tricia will send a press release about the event. Refreshments will be served. The event will be in the big conference room at the library at 7:00 PM.

New Business

1. Newspaper Articles

The November article is due on November 4. It will most likely be on the state conference. The December article is due December 9 and will preview the essay contest. The January article is due January 6 and will be on Martin Luther King Day.

2. State Human Rights Commission League Meeting

John Hagen will try to attend the State Human Rights Meeting. He will try to tap them for resources including articles and videos. John asked that the Commissioners e-mail him with questions or issues that he should explore.

3. Essay Contest

The topic is out and was distributed to the Commissioners-“Describe how you see these behaviors in your daily life and how they are related to each other: stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination.”

Nancy Clark and Sue Stevenson will check with John Alberts and try to find a teacher interested in the topic. The essays are due to the state on March 31. The topic will be presented to the students after Christmas.

A motion was made and carried to form a committee. Nancy will chair the committee. She will ask Sue Wagner to help. Tricia will prepare the packets for the students. The committee will ask service organizations for donations for the essay winners.

4. Martin Luther King Day

A motion was made and carried to form a committee. Sue Stevenson will chair the committee. Sue will try to find a keynote speaker. Sue will also meet with the principal of the high school to see if they would like to participate again this year. The Welcome Center will be involved in the coordination in the event. Information will be sent to all past award recipients regarding the service award.

Other Business

1. DARE to Care

Dare to Care is on this Sunday (September 25) at the Nature Center.

2. Concert

There is a hurricane Katrina benefit concert at the Paramount at 2:30 on this Sunday also. Admission is \$10 per person.

3. E-mail from the State League of Human Rights Commissions

Tricia read to the Commission an e-mail received from the State League regarding a letter to the editor in the Herald in June titled “Immigrants Keep Residents Indoors”. The Commission will consider a response.

4. Taste of Austin

Nancy Clark spoke to Mayor Rietz. It was suggested that the Taste of Austin be added to the Sesquicentennial events.

5. Banner

No further update. Commission determined a size of 6 feet by 2 feet, with 2 to 3 colors. Liliana will obtain prices.

6. Guest Speaker – Laurie Henry

Nancy will see if Laurie Henry would like to speak to the Commission.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 p.m.

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held on October 19, 2005, at 6:30 PM, at the Austin Public Library.

Submitted by Stephanie Haedt.