

Human Rights Commission Minutes for January 18, 2006

Present: Scott Monson, Stephanie Haedt, Peter Jacobs, John Hagen, Sue Stevenson, Liliana Silvestry, Marcel Edoh, Janet Anderson, and Tricia Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Nancy Clark.

Meeting called to order at 6:36 PM.

The Commission welcomes new commissioners Marcel Edoh and Janet Anderson.

The agenda was adopted with the addition of meeting day, SMAC representation, and Diversity Month under new business. Agenda adopted as amended.

Minutes for November 16, 2005 were adopted as written.

Committee Reports

1. MLK Event Recap

Aaron Stewart spoke to the Commission regarding the MLK Day events. The event was a success, use this to learn and build on. The location at the Austin High School is perfect. Would like to expand the event to include an early morning or evening activity to allow more community-wide involvement. On the promotion end, there needs to be improvement in all areas. The content of the presentations was great, Reggie, the keynote speaker did a great job of relating prejudice and racism to today.

Mr. Stewart was thanked for all his hard work to make the MLK events a success.

2. Award

No response yet this year. The deadline is February 10.

3. Essay Contest

Nancy Clark was not present to provide an update. Nancy will need help putting together prizes/awards. Letters can be sent to service groups ask for donations.

4. Banner

A 3x6 banner with the city logo would be \$182. A banner without the logo is not much difference, maybe \$40. We discussed having the following on the banner: Austin Human Rights Commission, "Building Respect for Differences", and phone number.

Redesigning the City logo to put children around the tree would be very costly. Liliana will do more work on the banner.

5. Taste of Austin

Nancy Clark was not present to provide an update.

New Business

1. Meeting Date

The Commission changed the meeting date to the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The brochures will need to be changed.

2. SMAC (Sexual Minority Advocacy Council)

It was suggested that a Commissioner attend the SMAC meetings. Peter Jacobs will attend the next SMAC meeting on January 31 and report back.

3. Volunteer Appreciation Event

The volunteer appreciation event will be held on March 30, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. More information will be coming, but mark your calendars.

4. Diversity Month

Karen Stinson of PRO Group is trying to establish a diversity month. There is a Proclamation on the internet at celebratediversitymonth.org where individuals can add their name in support.

5. Elections

Continued to the next meeting. Stephanie Haedt will do minutes for January.

Other Business

1. Newspaper Article

Aaron Stewart will write the next article in honor of Black History Month.

Citizens Addressing the Commission

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held on February 28, 2006, at 6:30 PM at

the Austin Public Library. **Please note the date change.**

Submitted by Stephanie Haedt.