

**Human Rights Commission
Minutes for November 16, 2006**

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

Absent: Nancy Clark, Liliana Silvestry and Scott Monson.

Meeting called to order at 6:35.

Minutes for July 25, 2006 were adopted as submitted.

Agenda was approved.

Old Business

1. Essay Contest

Nancy Clark submitted the information after the last meeting. The deadline is Friday, March 3, 2007. The same two teachers at Ellis and Pacelli will be assisting. The contest is open to 6, 7, and 8 graders. The winners will be announced to the City Council at the second meeting in March. John Hagen will contact some businesses to try to obtain funds for the prizes. Peter Jacobs will speak to the Eagle's Club. Sue Stevenson will check to see if the literary group would be interested in judging the essays again.

New Business

1. Ideas for HRC Sponsored Events

Discussed visit with Greta from Bosnia that occurred last month. Discussed holding a focus group presentation and discussion to educate the community on other cultures, including Greta's. We could have someone from outside act as moderator. Janet will check with the Diversity Council in Rochester to see if they have resources available.

Marcel Edoh also spoke to Greta about doing an educational piece on her and her culture. She was not sure if she wanted to put herself out there. If Greta decides she is interested, Tim Ruzek and KAAL Channel 10 are interested in the story. Marcel Edoh will invite Greta to the next meeting.

Commission would like to find some good, up-to-date demographics on the Austin area. Maybe we can check with the school district.

2. Newspaper Column

In December, we will rerun the tenants rights article, part 2.

In January, we will run an article on MLK. We may need to move up the deadline. We will ask Tricia Wiechmann to contact the paper about changing the date.

3. MLK Celebration

MLK is on Monday, January 15. A motion was made and carried to create a subcommittee to plan the MLK events. The subcommittee is made up of Sue Stevenson, John Hagen, Marcel Edoh, Janet Anderson. In addition to the events at the high school, the subcommittee will explore an evening event or entertainment. In addition to the speaker, the committee may explore having the Northwestern Singers or other entertainment.

4. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Motion was made and carried to move up both the December and January meeting dates. Each to occur in the first few weeks of the month. January to occur prior to MLK. We will ask Tricia to circulate dates.

Other Business

1. Community Action Training

Flyers were distributed for the Community Action Training.

2. Rotary Community

It was requested that this event be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Community Day is at Sentential park on July 30. It will be a large neighborhood BBQ setting. Kathy Stutzman may attend the next meeting to discuss the event further.

Citizens Addressing the Commission

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held in December on a date and location to be determined.

Submitted by Stephanie Haedt.