

**Human Rights Commission**  
**Minutes for April 24, 2007**

Present: Janet Anderson, Peter Jacobs, John Hagen, Sue Stevenson, Nancy Clark, and Bob Vilt,

Absent: Stephanie Haedt, Tricia Wiechmann (city liaison), Marcel Edoh, and Liliana Silvestry,

Meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m.

1. Agenda

Agenda was approved as written.

2. Minutes

March minutes adopted as amended with Sue's name corrected under 4A, Willmar spelling corrected under 5A, and Julie's last name corrected to Hale under 4C.

3. Certificate of Appreciation presentation

This item was tabled because the recipients did not attend the meeting. Janet will take the certificates and deliver them to the recipients.

4. Citizens Addressing the Commission

None.

5. Reports and Discussion

A. Human Rights Award

As previously decided, former Mayor Bonnie Rietz will be the recipient of the award this year. Nancy and Sue will meet with Bonnie to get background information for award presentation. Award will be in May. Regarding reception, in the past, family and others significant in the recipient's life and past recipients were invited.

B. Mayor's Forum

The Mayor's Forum on immigration was April 12, 5:30 PM at Riverside Arena. Several members of the commission attended. There were an estimated couple of hundred people that attended. The commissioners generally agree that it was a good first step – there was a good variety of speakers and they presented a lot of facts of which the public was probably not aware.

The commission then discussed some of the Willmar examples that were presented at the forum, particularly summer camp, and the soccer program associated with Integration Grant money. Also discussed were graduation coaches, soccer, FLES, regranting of money, and

other programs associated with the Integration Grant in the Austin area.

6. New Business

A. Newspaper Articles

May newspaper article will be on the HRC Award, which will also serve to advertise the reception. The June topic will be determined at the May meeting.

7. Other Business

A. The commission discussed the Apex Austin language camp and the potential to cooperate with next year's grant – contact Roger Boughton. Tie this in with the Willmar example – Integration Committee. Potentially bring Charlie, the facilitator from Willmar that spoke to the Integration Committee, to speak in Austin. Further discussion tabled until next meeting.

B. Continue with idea of giving out certificates of appreciation discussed at the last meeting – Sue proposed using this idea to generate ideas for future human interest stories for HRC newspaper columns.

C. In conjunction with the Integration committee, Nancy learned that Rochester diversity program can do programs for a fee. The commission will look into the potential to have them do something in Austin.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held on May 22, 2007.

Submitted by Peter Jacobs