

**Human Rights Commission  
Minutes for August 14, 2007**

Present: Peter Jacobs, Janet Anderson, Stephanie Haedt, Nancy Clark, John Hagen, and Tricia Wiechmann (city liaison)

Absent: Sue Stevenson, Bob Vilt, Liliana Silvestry, and Ron Langrell

Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m.

1. Agenda

Agenda was approved as written.

2. Minutes

June 19<sup>th</sup> 2007 minutes were adopted as written.

3. Citizens Addressing the Commission

None.

4. Reports and Discussion

A. Cultural Heritage Festival (CHF)

The HRC will have a table, including fishing game, at the CHF – sign-up sheet available. The event is August 26<sup>th</sup> at the bandshell, 12 pm until 6:30 pm, and then it will move to Paramount. Trish will have HRC T-shirts will be done by then (see below). Trish will create a banner using paper roll and existing designs of kids and Austin tree. Janet will introduce the HRC award at 4 pm, Sue or Nancy will then get up and provide overview, then Virginia Larsen will speak for about 10 minutes and the award will be presented to Bonnie. We discussed spreading the word that Bonnie is award recipient. Trish sent letters to all past recipients of the award. Trish will let City Council know that the award is taking place. We will try to notify members of other groups such as Page Turners, Apex Austin, etc. Also discussed how the festival will attract people.

B. HRC shirts/logo discussion

Trish got transfers and T-shirts and made one sample using a design she created based on the “rainbow and kids” design. We will use the basic design but change color of the background to better show up on white and gray t-shirts. Trish will take care of getting the T-shirts made before the CHF.

C. Next HRC Certificate of Appreciation (CoA) recipient

We discussed possible recipients. Recommended that the Welcome Center as an

organization get the award for their hard work in making the CHF happen, and this is the seventh year so it is a good anniversary for the award.

#### D. Possible Educational Programs with Senior Center

Following up on previously identified topic, Janet and Nancy mention a program that Kathy Sforza, who teaches ELL, used the senior center as a resource for the ELL classes. The Integration grant has money available for regranting – guidelines will be developed in September. The Rochester Diversity Council has workshops and speakers available for a fee.

### 5. New Business

#### A. Newspaper Column

Janet suggested that the column be about the Welcome Center, since they will be the recipient of the CoA in September.

### 6. Other Business

A. Trish passed out League of Minnesota HRC information on mini-grants to League members. Money would be available to provide local HRCs with technical assistance to develop and implement civic engagement and social justice educational activities. Other sources of matching money might be available from the Integration grant and the City of Austin. Add to next agenda discussion of ideas. Everyone should try to bring an idea.

B. Nancy will invite Kathy Sforza to speak to the HRC next meeting.

C. The League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions is having their 36<sup>th</sup> annual conference at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs, September 28-30.

D. Essay contest topic came out last week. Packets will be coming.

### 7. Next Meeting:

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held on September 25, 2007 at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

Submitted by Peter Jacobs