

**Human Rights Commission  
Minutes for October 10, 2007**

Present: Janet Anderson, Stephanie Haedt, Sue Stevenson, Liliana Silvestry, Ron Langrell and Nancy Clark.

Absent: Peter Jacobs, Bob Vilt, John Hagen, and Tricia Wiechmann (city liaison).

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Agenda

Agenda amended to remove # 5, Presentation by Kathy Sforza. Changed "October Certificate of Appreciation selection" to "November". Agenda was approved as amended.

2. Minutes

August 14, 2007 minutes were adopted as written.

3. Certificate of Presentation

Certificate of Appreciation presented to the Welcome Center.

4. Citizens Addressing the Commission

None.

5. Reports and Discussion

A. Cultural Heritage Festival

The Cultural Heritage Festival went well and there was a good turn out. Bill Miller was fantastic. Wished more would have been at the Paramount. Tournaments took a long time, may try to change next year. The Festival received more visibility having it at the Mill Pond rather than Todd Park.

6. New Business

A. MLK Day Celebration

MLK Day is on January 21, 2007. Commission is interested in having Bill Miller come. Nancy says the school has (Integration Grant) grant money available for visual arts, work with kids and the teachers, MLK.

If Bill is booked, we will look for someone else. Nancy will talk to the integration committee and then follow-up with Liliana. Maybe have Peter play some music beforehand. The College could also provide music. May not do lunch. We will have refreshments though. Integration meeting, bring international students in to work with the kids. College has international club, they are always looking for projects to assist. Need to help get other cultures into the schools.

B. League of MN HRC Grants

Mini-grants are available for \$1,500 from the State League of Human Rights Commissions. The

Commission will apply for a grant to cover some MLK celebration.

Also apply for a grant to attend the Human Rights Day event on December 7, 2007. Liliana will call Tricia to determine how much it is per person to attend the conference. Sue, Liliana, Ron, and Janet are interested in going to the conference.

C. Essay Contest

Nancy has made initial contact with the teachers. Sue will see if the writers group if they would be interested in helping again. If the writers' group is not interested, we will check with another group. We need to get donations for savings bonds again for the essay contest - \$100, \$75, and \$50. Liliana and John were able to get donations last year. Liliana will start making contact to obtain donations.

D. November Certificate of Appreciation selection

Abula Gora nominated for Certificate of Appreciation for becoming a leader, training others, and bringing equality to his community. Liliana moved, Ron seconded, all approved. Mr. Gora will receive the certificate at the November meeting.

E. Newspaper Column

The November column is due November 9, 2007. Ron will draft a column about Abula Gora and the certificate of appreciation.

7. Other Business

A. Adult Education Seminar for Homeownership and Caring

Commission will consider an adult education seminar to teach things that people living here take for granted, but should assist others with. For example, homeownership, home maintenance, caring for yard, etc. We will discuss this further at the next meeting.

B. Be Your Best

Ron will invite Deb Vang and Miguel Garate to speak about the Be Your Best program. Ron will invite them to the next meeting for a short presentation. The Be Your Best Program trains employees in an industry setting to be leaders in the Company.

8. Next Meeting:

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held on October 23, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Submitted by Stephanie Haedt