

**Human Rights Commission
Minutes for October 23, 2007**

Present: Janet Anderson, Sue Stevenson, Bob Vilt, Ron Langrell, John Hagen, Nancy Clark and Tricia Wiechmann (liaison).

Absent: Peter Jacobs, Stephanie Haedt, and Liliana Silvestry.

Guests: Jan Waller, Miguel Garate and Deb Vang (Riverland Community College).

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

1. Agenda

Agenda was approved as amended.

2. Minutes

October 23, 2007 minutes were adopted as written.

3. Citizens Addressing the Commission

None

4. Reports and Discussion

- Deb Vang and Miguel Garate from Riverland Community College gave a presentation on the 'Be Your Best' program.
- Nancy Clark updated the committee on the Integration grant through Austin Public Schools. She will be putting information together and it needs to be approved by John Albers.

Nancy believes that Liliana is putting information together for the state grant to help fund this year's MLK program. Bob Vilt indicated that he was interested in also attending.

- Ron informed the commission about a group of individuals who meet on a monthly basis and do human services work. The group is called USN.

Janet suggested the possibility of having members of human rights commissions from other communities meet to share ideas. Nancy and Sue indicated that the communities of Albert Lea, Owatonna and Austin used to get together on a quarterly basis, but that it stopped when Albert Lea disbanded their HRC and Owatonna was no longer interested.

Ron will contact Owatonna and the USN to see if they would be interested in having a joint meeting or allowing a representative or two from Austin attend their regular meeting.

- Adult Education – discussed offering basic homeownership classes. Could work with realtors, extension office, senior center. Topic needs more discussion and a sub-committee group to work on it. Ron indicated that Joe Fuhrman would be a good start.
- Ron will invited Abulla Gora to the November meeting as our certificate of appreciation award recipient. Ron will also meet with Abulla and ‘interview’ him to put together a column for our November article – deadline November 9.

6. New Business

Sue indicated that she has information from a teacher conference that she would like to share at an upcoming meeting – perhaps the December meeting?

Newspaper Column

Suggestions for the December column – ask for public input on what they would like to see the Human Rights Commission do.

7. Next Meeting:

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held on November 27, 2007, at 6:00 PM in the library small conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

Submitted by Tricia Wiechmann