

**Human Rights Commission
Minutes for February 27, 2008**

Present: Janet Anderson, Bob Vilt, John Hagen, Liliana Silvestry, Kathryn Martin and Tricia Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Stephanie Haedt, Ron Langrell, Kirsten Lindbloom and Sue Stevenson.

Call to order

Janet Anderson called to order the regular meeting of the Austin Human Right Commission at 6:15 on February 26, 2007 in the Austin Public Library small conference room.

I. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Janet request to move the approval of the January 22, 2008 minutes to the next meeting (not yet available).

II. Citizen addressing the Commission – none

III. Agenda Report / Discussion

- a) Trish questioned if nominations will continue based on the distance from last nomination. Commissioners agreed to continue based on nominations instead of having one every month. It was considered to present the next nomination to Miguel Garate and Deb Vang both from Riverland Community College with the summer program “Be Your Best” providing opportunities to young individuals with possible disadvantage to have an opportunity for higher education. Also with the discussion it was brought having in consideration identify one student that through the program had become a leader and is helping out others throughout the program. Miguel and Deb are going to be invited to the next meeting and we will request to write an article in regard to the program and the impact in the community.
- b) Essay Contest – Teachers from Ellis and Pacelli will be gathering essays, which they believe to be approximately 90. Each commissioner will get a package from Trish office to read and select those that will be going to the writers group. Deadline March 3, to be presented to City Council March 17 at 5:30PM request to be early for pictures. Article and pictures will be sent to local newspaper. 1st prize winner will read his/her essay in front of the Council. The three top winners will be sent to the State competition. Saving bonds will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd position. John will be in charge to request US Bank; Liliana to Accentra Credit Union; and Bob to the Farmer Merchant Bank

Writers group will meet on March 12. They will review the essays and select the three top ones.

IV. New business

- a) Election of Officers because there were four commissioners absent it was decided to have nominations and send emails for the voting and confirm in the next meeting. Janet Anderson was nominated as Co-Chair by Martin, second by Liliana; Janet nominated Sue as Co-Chair; Bob second. Stephanie Haedt was nominated by Janet and seconded by Liliana for the secretary position.
- b) Newspaper column – the April article will be on the RCC program “Be Your Best” provided by Miguel Garate and Deb from Riverland Community College.
- c) MLK Celebration – 2009 was presented to the commission the idea of having Bill Miller as part of the event at the Paramount. Liliana and Janet will look into grant or sponsorship opportunities to cover the cost. One of the possible sponsors could be Riverland and the Welcome Center. 2009 celebration will Monday, January 19th. Places to consider: Paramount Theater; Dinning Room Senior Center or Library.
- d) November vote – consider roundtable to discussion human rights issues so that voters can make an informed decision.
- e) Janet and Liliana took each a set of DVD’s relating to human rights issues. They will review and recommendation to the commissioners on the next meeting, if videos will be a good idea to have for community activities.

Other Business – none

Next meeting – March 25, 2008 at 6:00PM at the City Hall conference room

Adjournment

Janet Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Liliana Silvestry