

**Human Rights Commission
Minutes for March 25, 2008**

Present: Janet Anderson, Stephanie Haedt, Sue Stevenson, Ron Langrell, Kristin Lindbloom, Kathryn Martin, and Tricia Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: John Hagen, Bob Vilt and Liliana Silvestry,

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

1. Agenda

Agenda amended to add presentation of certificate of appreciation and Jim Otteson, representative for the Minnesota League of Human Rights Commissions. Agenda was approved as amended.

2. Minutes

February 26, 2008 minutes were adopted as written.

3. Certificate of Presentation

Certificate of Appreciation presented to the Miguel Garate.

4. Citizens Addressing the Commission

None

5. Reports and Discussion

A. Be Your Best

Miguel Garate gave a presentation on the Be Your Best program. The grant-funded program is an 11 week course in the summer to provide support and resources for under-served, under-represented and under-participating high school students or dropouts for higher education. College prep courses are offered in English, Math, Computer and Study Skills. The program historically has been very successful. There were 23 participants in 2007 and 25 participants will be accepted this year. This year's nominations cover students from several local communities.

The program has also expanded into a mentorship program for students at Ellis. Several Be your Best past participants are paired with Ellis students.

B. Jim Otteson – Minnesota League of Human Rights Commissions

Jim Otteson is our district representative to the Minnesota League of Human Rights Commission. The Commission members and Mr. Otteson discussed the projects, issues and

events on our area, proposals for a collaborative effort on fundraising, events and education, and the annual convention for the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions in Rochester on October 3 and 4.

C. Confirmation of Officer Elections

A motion was made and unanimously carried to confirm the election of officers.

D. Essay Contest – Presentation of Winners

The essay contest winners will be presented at the April 7 City Council Meeting. Pictures will be beforehand at 5:15 p.m.

E. Human Rights DVDs (Janet & Liliana)

Tabled to the next meeting

6. New Business

A. Newspaper Column

The April newspaper article is due on April 11, 2008. The article will be on the Be Your Best Program. Ron will provide information for the column.

7. Other Business

A. Education in the United States Quiz

The Commissioners took a Quiz on Education in the United States provided by Commissioner Sue Stevenson.

8. Next Meeting:

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held on April 29, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room at City Hall. **Please note the date and location change.**

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Stephanie Haedt