

Human Rights Commission
Minutes for May 27, 2008

Present: Janet Anderson, Stephanie Haedt, Kristin Lindbloom, Kathryn Martin, John Hagen, Sue Stevenson, and Bob Vilt.

Absent: Liliana Silvestry, Ron Langrell, Tricia Wiechmann (city liaison).

Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m.

1. Agenda

Agenda was approved as amended.

2. Minutes

March 2008 minutes were adopted as written.

3. Citizens Addressing the Commission

Citizen Dan Kane addressed the Commission regarding various issues including his letter to the Commissioners, open meeting postings, ordinance, securing equal opportunity, frustration with ability to receive public information, shared data he's collected, recommendations to city, the HRC budget, and past HRC award recipients.

4. Reports and Discussion

- A. Aaron Stewart – presentation Humanitarian Law. Mr. Stewart did not attend the meeting. No presentation occurred.
- B. Human Rights DVDs. Janet and Sue are still working on and will circulate the information.
- C. Certificate of Appreciation. No suggestions or nominations.

5. New Business

- A. Ordinance HRC and Bylaws – Stephanie discussed concern with word “secure” in By-Laws and other suggested revisions to the By-Laws. Sue made motion for joint meeting of Commissioners, city liaison, and city attorney to review HRC By-Laws. John seconded. Motion passed unanimously. City liaison shall check availability of city attorney for June 24 at 6 p.m.
- B. Newspaper Column – June article on “Be your Best” written by Ron.

A schedule for future articles was established as follows:

July – Sue

August – Stephanie
September – Janet
October – Kristen
November – Bob

- C. Budget – Janet made motion to form a committee to review 2008-2009 budget and make recommendations to full commission. The committee consists of Janet, Sue, John and Kristen. Motion seconded by Bob and passed unanimously. Committee will explore budget to allow HRC to have more speakers and events.

6. Other Business

- A. Involvement with Cultural Heritage Festival – Discussed not doing fish pond, but instead taking more of a Human Rights focus, one that would raise exposure of the HRC and obtain feedback from community.
- B. Bremer Grants & Interaction with HRC. Received one. Will make inquiry to see if we can apply again.

7. Next Meeting:

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held on June 24, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. at the Austin Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by Stephanie Haedt