

**Human Rights Commission
Minutes for October 28, 2008**

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

Absent: Kirsten Lindbloom and Sue Stevenson.

Guest: Dan Kane

Meeting called to order at 6:12 p.m.

1. Agenda

Commissioner Haedt made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Silvestry. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Minutes

Commissioner Martin made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vilt. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Report State Conference

Commissioners Vilt, Silvestry, Anderson, Langrell, and Martin gave reactions to the State Conference. Overall, the presentations were very good, in particular, the Native American presentation and the presentation at lunch. All felt, however, that there was not enough time to discuss with others and not a setting to share ideas or network.

4. Grant Application

A. Grant Application

We have not received a response yet. No date was provided for a response.

B. Advocates for Human Rights

A representative from Advocates for Human Rights will attend the November 18 meeting and provide additional information. There is no cost for the Advocates of Human Rights to attend. Tricia Wiechmann will invite city council.

5. Roberto Clemente event

No additional information, still in the process of gathering. Ann Hokanson knows we are interested and will provide additional information as it becomes available.

6. Survey Outlets

Commissioner Lindbloom not available for an update.

Commissioner Silvestry will gather more surveys at our discussion about the election, on November 6 from 3-6 p.m. at the coffee shop. The Hip Hop Group (Jeb Middlebrook) will be present.

Commissioner Langrell will speak to Gary Schindler about distributing surveys at Riverland.

Also discussed providing surveys to AHS students and groups at the PTA meetings.
Commissioner Lindbloom is working on an internet survey form.

Feedback from the surveys will be used for future planning.

7. Certificate of Appreciation Nominations

No nominations.

8. Upcoming events:

a. Essay Contest

We have not received the 2009 packet from the State. The topic requires students to identify and explain an example of how a current news event is a violation of Human Rights.

b. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

The Commission will again co-sponsor the MLK event with the Welcome Center. The Diversity group at AHS would also like to be involved. The goal of the Martin Luther King celebration is to open doors for all.

We need to select and engage a speaker. Commissioner Vilt will contact Dave Larson, Associate Professor of Indian Affairs at Mankato State University. Mr. Larson spoke at the State Conference this year. We also need to immediately find a place to host the event. Commissioner Silvestry will work on the location.

9. Other Business

The Commission discussed selecting a date for the vision planning. Commissioner Haedt will circulate dates, tentatively January 24, 2008 and first part of February, depends on moderator and his/her availability.

10. Citizens Addressing Commission

Dan Kane commented that the commission needs a plan. He provided his feedback on the State Conference and provided the Commissioners copies of the universal declaration of Human Rights, the movie "Closing the Gap" and information on Project 515.

11. Next Meeting:

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held on November 18, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. at the Austin Public Library. **Note date change due to Thanksgiving holiday.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by Stephanie Haedt