

**Human Rights Commission  
Minutes for September 4, 2008  
(rescheduled from August 26, 2008)**

Present: Janet Anderson, Stephanie Haedt, Kirsten Lindbloom, John Hagen, Liliana Silvestry, Bob Vilt and Tricia Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Ron Langrell, Sue Stevenson, and Kathryn Martin.

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

1. Agenda

Agenda was approved as amended.

2. Minutes

July 22, 2008 minutes were adopted as amended.

3. Citizens Addressing the Commission

Dan Kane addressed the Commission. Mr. Kane brought to the attention his concern with Centennial Park (that it was “separate, but not equal”, specifically, fewer picnic tables, no gazebo and barrels for garbage containers), spending of the Bremmer Foundation Grants, City budget request, and considerations for a facilitator. Mr. Kane asked the Commission, with regard to the planned media blitz, what language(s) the advertising will be in, the content, the service providers used, media outlets and whether there will be a referral to the state Department of Human Rights.

4. Reports and Discussion

A. Certificate of Presentation

No Certificate of Appreciation was presented as the recipient was unavailable. It will be mailed.

B. Acceptance of Nominations for Future Certificate of Appreciation Recipients

None

5. New Business

A. Grant Request

The grant request is due September 30. The grant request must be for strategic planning and training. Roberta Czaplewski from Riverland Community College attended to discuss with the Commission the options related to a facilitator to assist the Commission in determining it’s successes (why particular events were or were not successful), vision moving forward and how to get there.

There was a lengthy discussion whether it is a lack of a focus or mission or a lack in the tools to get there, options to pursue that may address the tools aspect, other options for vendors or low cost options. Commission discussed further exploration into mission and strategic planning and the vendors in the community. Commissioner Haedt made a motion to continue to pursue the

Bremmer Grant for the maximum amount of \$1,500. Seconded by Commissioner Hagen. Passed unanimously. Commissioners Lindbloom and Silvestry will research options, vendors and possibilities to discuss at the September meeting prior to finalizing the grant proposal.

B. League of Minnesota Human Rights Commission Resolution (approve honorary commissioner)

Minnesota League of Human Rights requested a waiver of the time requirement for the appointment of an honorary commissioner for the upcoming conference. Commissioner Silvestry made a motion to approve the waiver of the time requirement, Commissioner Vilt seconded, passed unanimously with Commissioner Haedt abstaining.

6. Approve By-Laws

Approval of the By-Laws was tabled for lack of the 2/3 needed to conduct the vote.

7. Cultural Heritage Festival

A questionnaire will be conducted at the Cultural Heritage Festival. Bottled water will be handed out for completing the questionnaire. Commissioner Lindbloom will work on getting a donation for 100 bottles of water. Commissioner Anderson will contact the recycling center for a bin for the used bottles. Work schedule was determined for the Human Rights table.

8. Other Business

A. HRC Meetings – Citizens Addressing the Commission

Commissions discussed the pros and cons to have citizens address the Commission at the beginning and the end of meeting and the historical perspective. Commissioner Haedt made a motion to move the Citizens Addressing the Commission to the end of the meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Silvestry. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Correspondence from Advocates of Human Rights in Minneapolis

The Commissioners were provided a copy of correspondence from a member of the Advocates of Human Rights related to a recent USA Today article immigration in Austin.

9. Next Meeting:

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held on September 22, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. **PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by Stephanie Haedt