

**Human Rights Commission
Minutes for January 27, 2009**

Present: Bob Vilt, Kirsten Lindbloom, Steve Wald, Troy Nelson, Ron Langrell, Kathryn Martin, Sandy Anderson, and Tricia Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Sue Stevenson and Liliana Silvestry.

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 by Tricia Wiechmann.

1. Agenda

Commissioner Nelson moved to adopt the agenda as written, second by Commissioner Vilt. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Welcome New Members

New Commissioners were welcomed and all members gave a short introduction of themselves. Tricia talked briefly about the history and purpose of the HRC.

3. Approval of minutes from December 16, 2008

Commissioner Vilt moved to approve the minutes, second by Commissioner Langrell. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Reports/Discussion

A. MLK Celebration – Commissioners Vilt and Lindbloom stated that they had heard good feedback; it was exciting, there was a lot going on, the speaker did a nice job, the music was great, the meal was really good, etc. The committee discussed a couple of possibly improvements for future MLK events; tape it if possible, more publicity, think about the speaker several months ahead of time. There were good things as well, such as diversity of age in the participants was important and worked well. Thanks were given to the committee.

B. Essay Contest – Tricia refreshed the Commission on some details of the essay contest. It is for 6, 7 and 8 grade students. The deadline for the essays is March 11th to Tricia. The deadline to turn in essays to the State Commission is the end of March. Commissioner Vilt anticipates that the Austin Writers Group will agree to read and select the winning essays as they have in the past. We agreed to share the task of screening the papers to turn over to the Writers Group. We will discuss obtaining savings bonds for the winning authors at the next meeting; also they will be recognized at the first meeting in April of the City Council. It was mentioned that the link for information for the State poster contest is not working. Commissioner Lindbloom will attempt to find a way to obtain information about this.

C. Strategic Planning Session – Saturday, March 7, 2009 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM. The session with Nancy Frank Wilson will be at the library. There will be a potluck-style breakfast and lunch.

5. New Business

Election of Officers – Commissioner Langrell nominated Commissioner Lindbloom for the position of chair-person, second by Commissioner Martin. Commissioner Lindbloom accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. The motion was then carried unanimously. Commissioner Langrell nominated Commissioner Martin for the position of secretary, second by Commissioner Wald. Commissioner Martin accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. The motion was then carried unanimously.

6. Other Business

A. Meeting format – It was discussed that with new members we should consider guidelines on how meetings are conducted, we may discuss this at our strategic planning session.

B. Discussion was held on the possibility of a regional approach to PSA's in partnership with Rochester and/or Owatonna. We may discuss this at our strategic planning session.

C. Commissioner Lindbloom reported that she has been invited by APEX Austin to talk about PSA's, especially to share the direction of the PSA's.

7. Citizens Addressing the Commission

No citizens addressed the commission.

Commissioner Wald moved to adjourn at 7:58 PM. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Kathryn Martin