

**Human Rights Commission  
Minutes for September 22, 2009**

Present: Kirsten Lindbloom, Sophia Ponce, Amy Wangen, Steve Wald, Kathryn Martin, and Bob Vilt, Trish Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Aaron Stewart, Troy Nelson and Ron Langrell.

Guest: Dan Kane.

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Commissioner Lindbloom

Agenda was taken out of order to accommodate persons who may arrive late and may wish to contribute to some reports.

5. Bremer Grant

This is a capacity building grant. Commissioner Lindbloom is willing to write the grant again. The money would be for follow up assessment of our work plan; perhaps further strategic planning with Nancy Franke Wilson. And also to help with expenses for the December 2009 state convention which will be held in St Paul. Commissioner Wangen moved to apply for the grant for those two purposes, Commissioner Wald second, motion passed unanimously.

6. Media Committee Report

A mock up of the updated brochure was shown. The mission statement will be on the final version. It was felt by the commission that we need a photo that is even more representative of cultural diversity. Elements for our new web page will be ready soon. We have 98 friends on Facebook. PSA's are in production and are expected to begin running next week; #1 and #29 will run first. KAAL will also sponsor them. This means we can have extra air time for the PSA's. Radio spots are in the works. Billboards will be up in a few days.

2. Approval of minutes of August 25, 2009

Commissioner Vilt moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Ponce second, motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report

No new expenditures.

4. Advocate for Human Rights

Madeline Lohman from the Advocates for Human Rights was here. Commissioner Lindbloom and Commissioner Martin shared comments about the event on September 12, 2009. Mr. Kane had also attended the event and was invited at this time to share his thoughts as a citizen.

We discussed film series ideas with Ms. Lohman. Commissioner Lindbloom informed the commission that the Advocates for Human Rights/Blue Cross – Blue Shield grant will work with us for the film series and for a media response kit. Perhaps the media response kit could be a template with responses and facts. Ms. Lohman presented a newsletter from One Voice Minnesota Network, along with a flyer for a gathering to be held in Owatonna on October 23, and a 3 page print-out which gives information about the network – including descriptions of the member organizations.

Ms. Lohman said the Advocates for Human Rights are working on development of regional gatherings, for example, what works and what doesn't. The Owatonna meeting will be a strategy session for the coming year. We held discussion on whether joining One Voice would benefit the commission. Commissioner Vilt moved that the Austin Human Rights Commission officially become a member of the One Voice Minnesota Network, Commissioner Wald second, motion passed unanimously.

We held discussion on using the remaining Bremer grant funds to support the Owatonna gathering. Commissioner Wald moved to support the One Voice Regional Gathering in Owatonna with the \$250 remaining Bremer grant funds, Commissioner Vilt second, motion passed unanimously.

#### 7. Discussion of 2009-2010 Film Series

Commissioner Lindbloom brought forward an idea for a live presentation from a woman named Giselle Hernandez. Ms. Hernandez gives a presentation called "The Deportee's Wife". The Advocates for Human Rights would help with organizing and the development of questions. We discussed asking Riverland Community College if we could hold it there. Commissioner Wangen moved to try to secure an engagement in November with Giselle Hernandez, Commissioner Wald second, motion passed unanimously.

#### 8. Review work plan

Commissioner Lindbloom did a quick run down of our work plan. Everything is up to date or is being worked on by a committee.

#### 9. Other Business

Complete Count Census Committee – Commissioner Martin reported that she and Commissioner Wald attended the meeting on September 8, 2009. Also in attendance were Mayor Stiehm, various community members, and census officials. Census forms will be mailed out on March 14, 2010 – they are to be returned by April 1, 2010. Mario Duarte (a census official) gave Mayor Stiehm an English/Spanish version of the 10 question census form and a handbook of ideas for committees. We wish to identify and coordinate events that representatives should attend to hand out materials. There was an event on Saturday September 19 for Hispanic independence week. Plans were made to distribute information there. There was discussion on strategies for out-of-town retirees, out-of town students, ethnic groups, and the general population. The census bureau

has information for school children to take home. The next meeting will be October 5, 2009 at 4:00 PM in council chambers.

Poster Contest – Commissioner Lindbloom reported that four art teacher's responded saying some students are interested in submitting a poster.

Martin Luther King Jr Celebration – Commissioner Wangen reported that Justice Alan Page is unavailable for the event. We should call next summer to inquire about his calendar for 2011. The committee working on MLK day will meet Tuesday October 6 in the small meeting room in the library.

Mexican Independence Day at Riverland – Held on September 15. Commissioner Wald reported that Sam Johnson was attempting to distribute NSM literature and was stopped by college officials. Commissioner Martin reported that her son attends Riverland in Austin and he conveyed that he and his friends enjoyed the day.

Stage Left Presentation – Commissioner Lindbloom reported that Stage Left theater group will be performing the evening of October 20 at Riverland Community College in Austin. We discussed possible involvement – possibly have a table with our literature. Commissioner Wangen moved to ask to co-sponsor the event, second by Commissioner Ponce, motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wangen reminded us of the movie promoted by Apex Austin on October 7 at the Paramount.

Commissioner Ponce announced that Sunday September 27 from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM there will be a basketball tournament at Rotary Park. The tournament is called Liga Mixteca. Participants are teams that are sponsored by towns in Mexico.

#### 10. Citizens Addressing the Commission

Mr. Dan Kane addressed the commission. He inquired on the status of the City Council's Support. He asked if there would be any utility in doing another presentation. Regarding our new brochure he notes that the phone numbers are for our city. His concern is that if a person calls and is referred there is a concern for accessibility. He stated that the Director of the Advocates for Human Rights had a stunning interview on KSMQ. He suggests citing sources and dates for slides for Immigration 101 workshop. He thinks the facebook account is terrific to reach the population. He disagrees with the vote to support the regional meeting in Owatonna. He wants to see capacity building for the people of our community.

The next meeting of the Austin Human Rights Commission will be October 27, 2009.

Commissioner Wald moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Martin