

Human Rights Commission
April 26, 2011

Present: Ron Langrell, Aaron Stewart, Steve Wald, Lysie Moritz, Kathryn Martin, Jake Vela, Kirsten Lindbloom, Kristi Beckman and Trish Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Amy Wangen.

Guest: Nancy Franke Wilson.

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

1. Agenda

A suggestion was made to move 'Capacity Building' up to the top of the Reports. Commissioner Langrell moved to adopt the agenda with that change, Commissioner Stewart second, motion passed unanimously.

2. Minutes

Commissioner Vela moved to approve the March 22, 2011 minutes, Commissioner Wald second, motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report

\$3,600.00 has been used for CORE group, t-shirts, Film Festival, DVD rights, Essay Contest, Allen Page, buttons, and candy. Proof of \$10,000 cash match has been submitted to Blue Cross/Blue Shield along with an indicator of where our in-kind is coming from.

4. Reports

Capacity Building/Strategic Planning –

A sub-committee met with Nancy Franke Wilson to discuss changes to the by-laws. The sub-committee is Aaron Stewart, Ron Langrell and Kathryn Martin. The sub-committee concentrated on two issues-

Issue #1 is Attendance of Meetings. Nancy had examples of some possible changes to the language. Our expectation is that we really want everyone to be at the meeting, we value input. We discussed open meeting laws and an option to be present by phone.

Issue #2 is Public Comment at our Meetings. The recommendation of the sub-committee is to limit it to three minutes with someone designated to time it. If at any time during the comment a Commission member feels personal boundaries are crossed, they are empowered to excuse themselves.

Discussion ensued as to whether to move the ‘Citizens Addressing the Commission’ toward the beginning of the agenda for each meeting or to keep it toward the end. Commissioner Wald moved to keep the ‘Citizens Addressing the Commission’ toward the end of the agenda, change the time limit to three minutes, and to include language that if at any time during the comment a Commission member feels personal boundaries are crossed, they are empowered to excuse themselves. Commissioner Langrell second, motion passed unanimously. Nancy will rewrite the issues we discussed and send back for approval.

Nancy Franke Wilson led a discussion on our Work Plan, highlighting our priority items from the workshop of April 2, 2011. The Commission went through each item of the revised work plan for May 2011 – April 2012 and asked for Commissioners to volunteer to focus on a priority item.

The Commission discussed obtaining an evaluation of our activities and effectiveness. After the discussion Nancy Franke Wilson departed.

The Commission discussed entering into an agreement for the evaluation, to include comparing Austin HRC to other HRC’s in Minnesota. Commissioner Moritz moved to ask Nancy Franke Wilson for a bid to enter into an agreement for evaluation, Commissioner Beckman second, motion passed unanimously.

Taste of Nations

We received very positive feedback on the event. It is bringing in groups from around the area; what a great benefit to Austin. It is a lot of work and it was agreed that we need to be sure to break out the tasks. There were approximately 70 tables at the event and hundreds of people. It is a must-do event for next year.

Essay Contest

Winners presented to the City Council – Katerina Miller, Ethan Morey and Neftali Lopez.

5. Updates

Media Campaign

Three billboards are coming in May. Buttons are ready for distribution at the film festival.

Renters Video

The Welcome Center and the HRC are working on a video about the Rights and Responsibilities of rental. It is for renters and for landlords. It is in English and in Spanish, possibly with voice-overs in other languages in the future. There is some printed material also. The video is also sponsored by SMIF, KSMQ, HRA, the Landlord Association and the Realtors Association.

Film Festival

Everything is ready. The Paramount will provide the building and staff for concessions. The Commission pays for the popcorn for Shrek.

6. Other Business

None this evening

7. Communications

It is becoming more difficult to obtain PSA times with the stations in our area. We will still contact other outlets such as newspapers, community calendars, CVB, the coffee house, Riverland, the Welcome Center, and places like AMC, Hormel and QPP when possible and appropriate.

8. Citizens Addressing the Commission

None this evening

Our next meeting will be May 24, 2011 in the City Hall conference room.

Commissioner Beckman moved to adjourn at 7:40 pm. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Martin, secretary