

Human Rights Commission
May 22, 2012
6:00 PM Library Small Meeting Room

Present: Lysnie Moritz, Aaron Stewart, Kristi Beckman, Kirsten Lindbloom, Jake Vela, Tricia Wiechmann (City Liaison)

Absent: Kathryn Martin, Ron Langrell, Steve Wald, Jack Wittkopp

Guest: Dan Kane

Commissioner Moritz called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

1. Adopt/Amend Agenda

(1st motion/Lindbloom, 2nd motion/Beckman)

2. Approval of April 24, 2012 minutes

(1st motion/Vela, 2nd motion/Stewart)

3. Treasurer's Report

- Expense since last meeting was \$26.75 – for printing more film festival handouts.
- Expenditures year-to-date: \$1,087.63 of \$3,500.

4. Reports & Discussion

- Film Festival – Because of numerous city events, turnout was lower than expected. We had approximately 100 people in attendance over the 3-day festival. Attendance was as follows: Burma VJ – 24 people; First Grader – 39; Babe (in Spanish) - 18; Papers - 16. Feedback for the film festival was positive. Had some opposition during Papers, but everything was handled promptly and professionally.

5. Other Business

- Tenant Rights and Responsibility video has been completed. Excess dollars will be used to dub video in Karen/Burmese/Arabic languages.
- On May 30th, The Advocates for Human Rights and Twin Cities Media Alliance will be hosting an event *Welcome to Minnesota: A Conversation about Immigration and Human Rights*. The event will focus on what it means to build welcoming communities for everyone in Minnesota. Location will be at the Brian Coyle Community Center in Minneapolis at 6 PM.
- On May 31, Winona State University Presents *"Building an Inclusive Community: Understanding East African Dynamics"* in Rochester. Participants will get a perspective of the cultural values and assimilation challenges of East African immigrants, and explore strategies for reaching the goal of inclusive communities. Location is at the Heinz Center Building A in Rochester, MN at 3:30 PM and is **FREE** to the public. Commissioner Vela will be attending the event.

- Question asked if there are any special events/festivals going on during the summer. The following events were identified:

- Artworks Festival August 25 -26
- Freedom Fest July 3 – 4th
- Summer Reading
- Sumner Lunch Program
- Adult Basic Education (ABE) Newcomers Class
- Sumner Open House July 26

6. Communications

- Question from Commissioner Stewart if names of essay winners were recorded in minutes. Commissioners named the 3 winners.
 - 1st place: Marissa Lund
 - 2nd place: Tony Mendez-Morales
 - 3rd place: Ethan Berke

7. Citizens Addressing the Commission

- Dan Kane asked what the ABE acronym meant. Commissioner Moritz responded with Adult Basic Education. Mr. Kane also asked if the essays will be published. Commissioners responded that essays will be on the Human Rights Commission website. His final question was if we showed only 4 films during the film festival, to which Commissioner Lindbloom responded with “yes”.

Commissioner Vela moved to adjourn at 6:37 PM. Meeting adjourned.

Our next meeting will be held on June 26, 2012 at the small meeting room at the Austin Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Jake Vela