

**Human Rights Commission
Minutes of January 24, 2012**

Present: Kirsten Lindbloom, Lysie Moritz, Kristi Beckman, Steve Wald, Jack Wittkopp, Aaron Stewart, Kathryn Martin and Trish Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Jake Vela and Ron Langrell.

Guest: Dan Kane.

Commissioner Lindbloom called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

1. Adopt/Amend Agenda

Commissioner Moritz moved to adopt the agenda as written, Commissioner Wald second, motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Beckman moved to approve the minutes of December 21, 2011 as written, Commissioner Wald second, motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report

Some expenses for Ms. Tutu are yet to be paid; hotel, taxi and perhaps Riverland Community College.

4. Welcome New Commissioner

Welcome to Jack Wittkopp. Introductions were made.

5. Reports and Discussions

MLK Event – We have had great feedback. It was a great message to the community, we were thanked by some award recipients, Ms. Tutu really connected with the students at AHS, the students had good questions, the way she addressed children not having fear was interesting, it was good that the award recipients were there. One problem was the different media sources did not have accurate information for the public even though they had been given the correct information. We discussed the possibility of a couple of Commissioners meeting with the Bogotts when they return.

Status of film selection – Rights to 'The First Grader' have been purchased. The film festival will be held Thursday May 10, Friday May 11 and Saturday May 12. 'Babe' will be shown on Saturday afternoon. Commissioner Beckman informed us that May 10 is always Mother's Day in Mexico. Other films that will probably be shown are 'Papers' and 'Burma VJ'.

The essay contest is coming up in March. Taste of Nations is in April. Our film festival is in May.

6. New Business

Commissioner Lindbloom had received a call from Ann Hokanson. The Austin Public Library has some videos on Sudan and Rwanda that may be of interest. They are documentary length. The Paramount Theater has offered space. Perhaps we could have a panel or discussion. Perhaps a second showing later in the week at the library.

7. Election of Officers

Nominations for chair or co-chair.

Commissioner Martin nominated Commissioner Beckman for co-chair. Commissioner Beckman nominated Commissioner Moritz for co-chair.

No other nominations were made. Commissioners Beckman and Moritz accepted their nominations.

Commissioner Wald moved to elect Commissioners Beckman and Moritz as co-chairs, Commissioner Wittkopp second, motion passed unanimously.

Nominations for secretary.

Commissioner Lindbloom nominated Commissioner Martin for secretary. No other nominations were made. Commissioner Martin accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Lindbloom moved to elect Commissioner Martin as secretary, Commissioner Wittkopp second, motion passed unanimously.

8. Communications

We will publicize our activities for March, April and May when the time is appropriate. Commissioner Beckman informed us of interpreter classes for certification that are coming up if we know anyone interested.

9. Citizens Addressing the Commission

Dan Kane Addressed the Commission this evening. He stated he thought Naomi Tutu was terrific and had some great words for us. He wonders about sustainability. Simultaneously with her remarkable words are kids with blankets and books learning about public service. He stated that since he is prohibited from making donations to this body, he made donations to the others. He is in conflict regarding the cost of \$7,500 for Ms. Tutu – he states that is a lot of money. Mr. Kane asked about the status of the Nancy Franke Wilson bid. (Commissioner Lindbloom then asked that item be added to the March Agenda.)

Commissioner Moritz moved to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 6:41 pm.