

**Human Rights Commission
Minutes of June 26, 2012**

Present: Kristi Beckman, Lysie Moritz, Jack Wittkopp, Aaron Stewart, Jake Vela, Steve Wald and Kathryn Martin.

Absent: Kirsten Lindbloom, Ron Langrell and Trish Wiechmann.

Guests: Madeline Lohman, and Matthew Simonson.

Commissioner Beckman called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

1. Adopt/Amend the Agenda

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Wittkopp moved to approve the minutes from May 22, 2012, Commissioner Moritz second, motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report

There was an expenditure of \$371.93 for HRC brochures.

4. The Advocates for Human Rights

Madeline Lohman presented information about 'One Voice Minnesota Monitoring Project - Creating a Blueprint for Welcome'. She handed out a pamphlet and spoke for several minutes and we held discussion.

The data collected will help determine the issues facing immigrants and how we can create change in systems that are fueling these problems. The methods include voices and experiences of their partner organizations. The Advocates is hoping Austin HRC is interested in a one year pilot for greater Minnesota outreach. We could host community conversations, meet with all law enforcement, conduct media monitoring, and do follow up activities; all information is anonymous.

Resulting goals will be decided by The Advocates in early 2014.

Commissioners discussed and decided this would be a good opportunity and we would continue to talk at our next meeting. Perhaps we can start this fall.

5. Other Business

We discussed the summer meeting schedule. Commissioner Stewart moved that we not meet in July, but that we meet on our regular schedule in August, Commissioner Vela second, motion passed unanimously.

There is an opening on the Commission. Commissioner Langrell is moving and no longer eligible to serve.

Commissioner Martin handed out packets of hand-outs that were available at the Paramount Theater during our film festival.

Ms. Lohman talked about President Obama granting temporary status to young immigrants. The Advocates will have a list of lawyers and resources; fraudulent offers for legal help are a concern.

6. Communications

Helping to publicize information regarding the Dream Act when the time is appropriate.

7. Citizens Addressing the Commission

Mr. Matthew Simonson addressed the Commission. He talked about US foreign policy and the use of drones. He gave us a print out of Internet articles published by Common Dreams.

Our next meeting will be August 28, 2012. Commissioner Stewart moved to adjourn at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn Martin, Secretary