

**Human Rights Commission  
Minutes of October 23, 2012**

Present: Kristi Beckman, Ojoye Akane, Lysie Moritz, Aaron Stewart, Jake Vela and Kathryn Martin.

Absent: Jack Wittkopp, Kirsten Lindbloom, Steve Wald and Trish Wiechmann (city liaison).

Guest: Dan Kane.

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

1. Adopt/Amend Agenda

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Stewart moved to approve the minutes of September 25, 2012, Commissioner Vela second, motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Akane moved to approve the minutes of October 8, 2012, Commissioner Moritz second, motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report

Spent since last meeting: \$277.17. Budget remaining: \$1,761.77.

4. Community Conversation Event Recap

Commission members who participated thought it went well, had a good representation of diversity, and that people enjoyed the event. Commissioner Stewart's group shared some strong feelings. Commissioner Vela's group shared a lot of responses to questions on welcoming. Commissioner Beckman appreciated the event. She was disappointed that some stories were not heard. Commissioner Stewart suggested that we give copies of the questions to participants and they can give further feed back to The Advocates. Commissioner Vela questioned how we will follow up.

In 2014 there will be a report from The Advocates. We will think about including the participants in an event to share the report.

5. Two Open Positions on the Commission

Commissioner Beckman does not plan to renew her term. Commissioner Wittkopp has resigned due to work commitments.

## 6. Reminder of Life without Borders Event

The event is October 27 at Our Saviors Church. The meal is at noon. The presentation begins at 1 pm. The event should wrap up by 3 pm. Trey Mewes and the Post Bulletin know.

## 7. MLK Discussion

Discussion of possible speakers. Commissioner Lindbloom sent a list, some are expensive. Some ideas discussed: Bringing a panel of former HRC award winners, Amnesty International presentation, a Sudanese speaker, a Karen speaker, a Hispanic speaker. Some ideas to promote service: Angel Tree/Kindness Tree with ways to serve - random acts of kindness for people to choose. Other ideas: Maybe identify a theme, poster or video contest of evidence of human rights being acknowledged.

## 8. Human Rights Award

Deadline changed to December 7th. Awarded at MLK Celebration on January 21, 2013.

## 9. Other Business

No other business.

## 10. Communications

\* Promote Life Without Borders Event - Post Bulletin and Herald know, also Winona State media will be there.

\* HRC Award - through e-mails, press releases in Post Bulletin and Herald, and our website.

## 11. Citizens Addressing the Commission

Dan Kane addressed the commission. He thanked Commissioner Vela for forwarding the e-mail he had requested. He stated his thanks to Trish Wiechmann for the 2012 minutes that were added to our website. He stated there was no chance for citizen comment at the October 8th meeting. He requests a copy of the September 10th minutes of a subcommittee that met. He states that spending in excess of 10% of the budget on food for an event may not have been the highest and best use of funds. He finds it unconscionable that commissioners ate food at the event.

## 12. Next meeting

Next meeting will be November 27, 2012.

Commissioner Moritz moved to adjourn at 6:43 pm. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Kathryn Martin, secretary