

**Human Rights Commission
Minutes of September 25, 2012**

Present: Lynsie Moritz, Jake Vela, Jack Wittkopp, Aaron Stewart, Kristi Beckman, Steve Wald, Kathryn Martin and Trish Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Ojoye Akane and Kirsten Lindbloom.

Guest: Dan Kane.

Commissioner Moritz called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

1) Formally Welcome New Commission Member

We wish to extend a welcome to Commissioner Akane. We look forward to our next meeting.

2) Adopt/Amend Agenda

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

3) Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Vela moved to approve the minutes of August 28, 2012, Commissioner Wald second, motion passed unanimously.

4) Treasurer's Report

No expenditures since our last meeting.

5) Community Conversation Event

The event will take place at the Hormel Home. Commissioner Akane is working on food choices from East African and possibly West African traditional cuisine. We would like some Mexican/Hispanic choices also. Discussed menu options and costs. Commissioner Wittkopp moved for approval for up to \$300.00 for food expenditures for the event, Commissioner Vela second, motion passed unanimously.

The Advocates for Human Rights are coming early on that day to meet with the success coaches. We will re-send e-mails; call people personally, perhaps contact newspapers and post on our website so as to interest enough people to attend.

6) HRC position on request to City Council to support opposition to constitutional marriage amendment

Mayor Stiehm presented our request to a work session. Council Member Janet Anderson moved to forward it to the next council meeting, but no one second.

However, the Austin Human Rights Commission will be listed as a Coalition Partner on the Minnesotans United for All Families website.

7) Other Business

Think about MLK Jr. Event of 2013. Commissioners Vela and Beckman volunteered to be on a subcommittee for it. Lysie will contact Kirsten to see if she is interested in participating and if she has any suggested speakers from last year's list.

8) Communications

As previously discussed to promote Community Conversation.

9) Citizens Addressing the Commission

Mr. Kane stated he is a big believer in networking. He gave an article on Ghana to the chairs. He requested the e-mail that Commissioner Vela sent to Blandin participants be forwarded to him also. He inquired about the essays – are they on the HRC website (answer = yes). States we need archived minutes of 2012 on our website. He inquired about the cost of using the Hormel Home for Community Conversation. He asked his name be listed as an attendee. He states he was recently in Moldova and Ukraine and he worked with people interested in Transparency International. He talked about accountability and the reduction in the number of minutes citizens are allowed to address the commission.

10) Follow up motion

It was discussed that there should be approval for monies to secure the Hormel Home. Commissioner Wittkopp moved to approve the expenditure for the Hormel Home for Community Conversation, Commissioner Vela second, motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wald moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 pm. Meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting will be October 23, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathryn Martin, Secretary