

AHRC Special Meeting

City Hall – Conference Room A

October 8, 2012

Present: Kristi Beckman, Ojoye Akane, Lysie Moritz, Jake Vela, Steve Wald, Tricia Wiechmann

Absent: Aaron Steward, Kirsten Lindbloom, Kathryn Martin, Jack Wittkopp

Guest Present: Dan Kane

- Commissioner Beckman called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.
- Special meeting called because Winona State University (WSU) will be bringing a speaker (Dr. Conradin Perner aka Kwacakworo) to the Rochester/Winona area. Commissioners would like to invite Dr. Perner to the Austin community.
- This is a great opportunity for the Austin community, as we have a large Anyuak presence.
- Tentative date would be October 27th at Our Saviors Lutheran Church between 12pm – 3pm. Meal would start at 12pm, presentation at 1pm. Alliance for Educational Equity would help sponsor the event.
- Dr. Perner will share his experience of building civic society and democratic institutions from indigenous traditions in the new country of South Sudan. He will also talk about his work with tribal leaders and civic communities in South Sudan.
- Dr. Perner has written 4 volumes (cultural books on the history and the culture of the Nilotic people) that are hard to get. Austin library has a few, would be a nice tie into the community.
- Discussion as to how to invite Dr. Perner. Commissioners decided to present him with an honorarium and/or award as a diplomat for human rights.
- Commissioner Vela asked what is left in HRC budget: \$2,038.02
- Commissioner Moritz moved to create award recognizing Dr. Perner in his humanitarian efforts and present him with a \$500 honorarium at the community event scheduled for October 27th. Commissioner Wald second, motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioners will promote event through their networks.

- Commissioners have been contacted by the media regarding the Community Conversations scheduled October 16th, and discussed whether it would be appropriate to have media present at event.
- Commissioners decided that media can talk with/interview Madeline at the beginning of the session, but would have to leave once the conversation started. Commissioners want participants to speak freely and openly at event.
- Commissioner Akane has been working on bringing Ethiopian, West African and Sudanese representation to the Community Conversation.
- Commissioner Vela and Beckman are organizing the conversation guest list. A second community conversation may need to be scheduled if list continues to grow.

Commissioner Vela moved to adjourn at 5:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jake Vela