

Austin Human Rights Commission
July 9, 2013 meeting minutes
Small Meeting Room – Public Library 6pm

Present: Ojoye Akane, Darya Gemmel, Lysie Moritz, Kirsten Lindbloom, Aaron Stewart, Jake Vela

Absent: Kathryn Martin, Tiago Ferreira, Steve Wald, Trish Wiechmann (City Liaison)

Also present: Dan Kane

Meeting called to order at 6:14pm by Commissioner Moritz.

1. Adopt/Amend Agenda

(1st motion/Gemmel, 2nd motion/Lindbloom) Motion approved.

2. Approval of March 26, 2013 meeting minutes

(1st motion/Gemmel, 2nd motion/Lindbloom) Motion approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Commissioner Vela reported – no new expenditures. We have \$3,114.75 left in our budget and have only spent \$385.25 this year. We will need to discuss how we are going to use the money for the remaining year.

4. Reports & Discussion

A. Member Attendance

- a. No quorum in April, May or June. Commissioners discussed importance of member attendance.
- b. Commissioner Akane stated he will have attendance conflict starting in September. Has a class every Tuesday night in St. Paul.
- c. Commissioners discussed the possibility of changing the date and time of meetings to accommodate schedules. Poll will be sent out to commissioners to select what day of the week and time works best for them.

B. Need for new HRC members

- a. Commissioner Ferreira has moved to Minneapolis. We will need to find a replacement to serve out his term (expires 12/31/14).
- b. Commissioner Lindbloom will be departing from the commission in September, and has agreed to seek out her replacement.

5. New Business

A. Budget request to City of Austin

- a. City Liaison Weichmann has agreed to send the request for funding to the Council for 2013 - \$3,500. We will need to prepare a presentation to the council to inform them on activities and expenditure of funds. Commissioner Moritz agreed to present to Council. Commissioner Gemmel will check her schedule to see if she could attend as well.

B. Fall programming ideas

- a. Commissioners discussed partnering with other groups/non profits. Commissioner Lindbloom will check with Vision 2020 and Commissioner Moritz will check with Integration Collaborative.
- b. Discussion as to how to make Martin Luther King Jr day more service oriented and how to make it more "community wide". Possible partners Scarlet Cord and Leadership youth at High School.
- c. Idea to talk to Page Turners to identify a book about immigrant people or about the immigrant experience.
- d. Upcoming community events: Mower County Fair, Artworks Festival and Semilla Project at Welcome Center. Commissioners decided to find a partner and have a presence at the fair in 2014. Commissioners want to partner with Welcome Center's Semilla Project.
- e. Discussion on limitation of funding. We can provide support and pay presenter fees, but we cannot grant out our dollars. Check with city liaison as to how we can use funds.
- f. Sub-committee formed (Commissioners Moritz, Lindbloom and Vela) to work on budget and commit to fall programming projects.

*Motion to grant sub-committee spending and voting power for August programming.
(1st motion/Gemmel, 2nd motion/Akane) Motion carries.*

6. Other business

- No other business.

7. Communications

- Promote Artworks and Semilla project on facebook and website.
- Post that we are looking for new commissioners on website.

8. Citizens addressing the commission

- Dan Kane asked if sub-committee will be working on a tentative budget. He also encouraged the commission to focus on inclusive rather than selective. Mr. Kane did not elaborate on his statement.

Commissioner Vela moved to adjourn at 7:12pm. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be held on August 27, 2013.

Respectfully submitted - Jake Vela – Co-Chair