

**Human Rights Commission  
Minutes for December 16, 2013**

Present: Jake Vela, Lysie Moritz, Steve Wald, Darya Gemmel, Aaron Stewart, and Kathryn Martin.

Absent: Ojoye Akane and Trish Wiechmann (city liaison).

Guest: Dan Kane.

Meeting was called to order at 6:23 pm by Commissioner Moritz.

Copies of Minutes from previous meeting, agenda and treasurer's report are unavailable this evening.

Commissioner Gemmel moved to proceed with our typical business agenda, Commissioner Wald second, motion carried.

Reports

- Film Festival- Commissioner Vela reported that the sub-committee is working with John Guterman to determine which film we may use. Also perhaps a mental health film to help reduce the stigma. Commissioner Gemmel recently sent an e-mail to Mission 21 and is awaiting for a reply. We would like to invite them to sit on a panel. A request for quotes for brochures has been sent. There may be a nominal charge for the space this year. Commissioner Wald made a motion to allow the film festival sub-committee to pre-purchase film rights for the 2014 film festival, Commissioner Martin second, motion passed unanimously.
- Christmas in the City – Commissioner Vela reported that there was a good turnout. The Welcome Center served almost 200 egg rolls, Commissioner Gemmel reported that kids had great fun coloring, and that it was great to have chairs and desks available. Commissioner Moritz reported that there were a lot of people there for Santa.
- MLK – Commissioner Vela reported that the theme will still be soup and service. The location is the Episcopal Church, speakers are accepting the invitations. The Riverland International students have committed to partner with us that evening. Food will be served at 5:30 pm with the speakers to follow. There will be a call to action for the community to serve others. We will ask people to send us examples of how they volunteered. Perhaps we could put some of those in the paper as a special interest story. Commissioner Moritz reported that HY-VEE has California Medley, Chicken with Wild Rice and other soups for \$15-20 per gallon. We will have some kind of bread product also.

We will create a 'service tree' that evening. The leaves will be hands and everyone can create their own hand, sharing an idea for service by writing it on the hand. Perhaps we can display it at the library or city hall. This event has the potential to be large, but the space should be

sufficient. Commissioner Gemmel moved to all the MLK sub-committee up to \$500.00 budget for food and supplies, Commissioner Stewart second, motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Martin volunteered to write a press release for the Herald.

#### New Business

- Elections of Officers – After some discussion, Commissioner Gemmel stated she would not mind sharing a co-chair position.
- Open Positions on the Commission- The Mayor will appoint someone from the general pool of applicants for city commissions.

#### Citizens Addressing the Commission

Mr. Dan Kane addressed the Commission. He asked if we know the 2014 City allocation for our budget. He asked if we are paying for 2014 MLK out of 2013 budget. He suggested that we may want to contact Buttoni to see if they would be interested in donating some of the institutional soups they make. He named some International students and suggested we ask them to talk about the impact Dr. King has had on their country or the impact of volunteerism in their country.

Our next meeting will be January 27, 2014.

Commissioner Gemmel moved to adjourn at 6:15 pm, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathryn Martin, secretary.