

Austin Human Rights Commission
Minutes of October 28, 2013

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

Guests: Dan Kane, Lyle and Rose Engelhardt and John Sullivan.

Meeting called to order at 6:27 pm by Commissioner Vela.

1. Adopt/Amend the Agenda

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Moritz moved to approve the minutes of September 23, 2013 meeting as written, Commissioner Wald second, motion was approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Deferred due to report may have been inadvertently picked up by previous occupants of meeting room.

4. Reports and Discussions

* Project 515 – Project 515 presented on October 24. Commissioner Gemmel reported that seven people attended, the discussion period was great and it was a wonderful time. The Commission discussed possibly sponsoring some promotions next time, such as TV/radio, community conversations, community calendar.

* Author Nathan Banda – Nathan Banda will be coming to the Austin Public Library for a book signing on November 14 at 6:30 pm. Mr. Banda is from Malawi and is currently living in Alberta, Canada. He has spent time in Austin, so has ties here. The Commission has been asked to help promote his event. He is seeking a contribution of \$100.00 to help cover travel costs, a coffee hour and advertising.

The Commission discussed that maybe he could also partner with the school system as the group hosting him is from Riverland Community College. Commissioner Gemmel volunteered to contact Mel Morem at Riverland to see if Mr. Banda could do something at the school. After further discussion of monetary support, Commissioner Moritz moved that sponsor up to \$100.00 for Mr. Banda's event, Commissioner Gemmel second, motion passed unanimously.

* International Game Night – Kristie Beckman is part of a group holding an international game night in Austin to allow residents to experience games from all over the world. It is scheduled for November 2 from 4 to 6 pm at the El Parral Ballroom. Ms. Beckman is seeking sponsorship for prizes. The Commission discussed the event. Commissioner Moritz moved that we help sponsor the event up to \$100.00 for prizes and other items as necessary, Commissioner Wald second, motion passed unanimously.

* MLK Sub-Committee – This sub-committee has not yet met. Discussion of possibly partnering with Vision 2020. Also it was brought to our attention that Austin Public Schools will not be in session on that day in 2014.

*Film Festival Committee – This sub-committee has not yet met.

*Christmas in the City – November 29 is Christmas in the City for downtown Austin. HRC could have a table. Discussion of presenting a Christmas tradition from another culture. Commissioner Moritz volunteered to do a coloring sheet.

*2013 Budget – Deferred to next meeting due to the above mentioned issue with the report. The film festival in the spring can be partially paid for before the end of the year.

5. New Business

*The Commission is accepting Commissioner Lindbloom's resignation.

*The Commission has 2 open positions. One is about a 1 yr. commitment, it expires in December of 2014. The other is a 3 yr. commitment, it starts in January of 2014.

*December 5 is the date for the Human Rights Symposium. Discussion was held regarding the excellent presentations various Commissioners have attended in the past. Let Trish Wiechmann know if you plan to attend.

*Essay contest deadline is February 28, 2014. Discussion was held regarding prizes we will sponsor. It was decided to continue with Kindles.

6. No Other Business

7. No Communications

8. Citizens Addressing the Commission

Rose Englehardt brought pamphlets on human trafficking. She states it would be good to learn how to protect our community from that. And also how to recognize victims of human trafficking. She talked about 'Mission 21' organization from Rochester. Discussion ensued about the Commission's interest in this subject.

Dan Kane thanked Rose and Lyle, especially for coming and bringing an idea. He spoke about the enormous ongoing problem of human trafficking in Moldova. He encouraged the Commission to think globally and act locally. He requests that the co-chair send him the scanned info that Rose brought. He encouraged the Commission to make this year's essay contest a status event, perhaps lunch with the Mayor, City Council and HRC Commissioners. Commissioner Wald moved to adjourn at 7:15 pm. Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is November 18, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathryn Martin, Secretary