

Human Rights Commission Minutes for March 24, 2014

Present: Darya Gemmel, Richard Lemons, Jake Vela, Lyndsey Waletzke, Kathryn Martin and Tricia Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Lysie Moritz, Ojoye Akane and Christine Stiehm.

Meeting was called to order at 6:20 PM by Commissioner Gemmel.

1. Welcome Richard Lemons

The Commission welcomes our new member Richard Lemons. Introductions were made.

2. Adopt/Amend Agenda

Commissioner Vela moved to accept the agenda as written, Commissioner Lemons second, motion carried.

3. Approval of March 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Waletzke moved to approve the minutes as written, Commissioner Gemmel second, motion carried.

4. Treasurer's Report

One expense: \$100.00 for Dakota 38 to help with advertising.

5. Photo Project - Lori Henry

Lori Henry provided more information on the "We are Austin" photo project. She brought samples of the type of photos that will be included in the project. The project could possibly move the display to different locations; Austin High School, Ellis Middle School, etc. Ms. Henry requested \$1000.00 support monies from the Commission. There are other funding sources as well.

The Commission held a discussion after Ms. Henry left the meeting. Commissioner Vela moved to contribute \$500.00 to the photo project, Commissioner Lemons second, motion approved unanimously. We discussed our logo should be used as a sponsoring partner.

6. Reports and Discussions

- Film Festival – Regarding costs, Commissioner Gemmel reports that it should be about \$175.00 for licensing for the family film, she is attempting to contact the appropriate agency. This is the cost for either *The Adventures of Milo and Otis*, or *Charlotte's Web*. *Boys Don't Cry* is \$200.00. The film from Mission 21, both part I and part II will not have a cost to us. We discussed paying a fuel stipend of \$100.00 for John Gutterman. The cost for the Paramount Theater will be \$100.00. Commissioner Vela brought a draft of a

film festival poster. We would like to print 50 flyers and 50 programs, for an approximate cost of \$75.00. Commissioner Gemmel moved to spend monies as above for film licensing fees, theater rental, a fuel stipend for John Gutterman, and printing for the event. Commissioner Waletzke second, motion carried.

- Dakota 38 – Commissioner Gemmel reported that it was very interesting. She noted that in the news today there was a story about a Mankato resident who wrote to President Obama to request pardon for the Dakota 38. 10000 signatures are needed. Commissioner Vela reported the discussion with Jim Miller was very good. Commissioner Lemons reported the film was very moving. He felt that having Jim Miller there added a lot to the event. At least 45 people attended the event.
- Essay Contest – Commissioners Gemmel and Martin attended the city council meeting. Commissioner Gemmel introduced the three winners, they read their essays, received their certificates, and their Kindles. First place was Daisy Hernandez, second place was Signe Fadness, and third place was Maia Irvin. Commissioner Gemmel reported she attended the lunch with the Mayor held for the contest winners. They had Steve's Pizza in a conference room at Ellis Middle School. The Mayor talked with the children about his viewpoint on how the dynamics of Austin has changed. They all discussed what the children's' aspirations are.
- Taste of Nations – subcommittee has not met.
- Bullying Bill – Minnesota's law against bullying is considered to be among the weakest in the nation. In 2009 an update to the Bill was proposed, it passed the House and the Senate, but was vetoed by Governor Pawlenty. The Bill has been revised again and is making its way through the House and Senate. Some groups are opposed to it, they think it is too vague or too specific. Commissioner Gemmel will contact Danielle Nesvold to find out what the Commission can do to help. Commissioner Gemmel will send us all a link to the Bill.

7. Approval/Discussion of By-Law Change

Tabled as there are 5 members present.

8. New Business – No new business.

9. Other Business – No other business.

10. Communications

Commissioner Vela updated our website. He will add essay contest winners and film information. He asked if anyone wants to administer Facebook. He maintains a Twitter account @austinrights.

11. Citizens Addressing the Commission

Dan Kane addressed the Commission. He states he asked for the number of complaints in our area 2 months ago, he asked where that is at. Trish Wiechmann stated that she sent an email to the state and is waiting for a response. Regarding the photo project, he wants to speak against it. It is not clear to him what human rights this covered. If it is about empowering kids, it may be better to give them disposable cameras and have them take pictures. He states he sent each of us an email today. He states the school district has a significantly larger budget than this commission. 1/6 of budget on one project doesn't fit. He states an R rated movie is selective in the population it serves and he wants more inclusive. He thanks Trish and Jake for offering to print movie flyers at a smaller cost. Regarding MLK Day; a photo should be prominently displayed in the Austin Daily Herald and the Rochester Post Bulletin.

Our next meeting is April 28, 2014 at 6:15 pm

Commissioner Lemons moved to adjourn at 7:41 pm. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Martin, secretary