

Human Rights Commission Minutes for May 19, 2014

Present: Darya Gemmel, Richard Lemons, Lysie Moritz, Chrissy Stiehm, Jake Vela, Kathryn Martin, and Trish Wiechmann (city liaison).

Absent: Ojoye Akane, Aaron Stewart, and Lyndsey Waletzke.

Guest: Dan Kane.

Meeting was called to order at 6:22 pm.

1. Adopt/Amend Agenda

Commissioner Moritz moved to adopt the agenda as written, Commissioner Gemmel second, motion carried.

2. Approval of April 28, 2014 Minutes

One amendment noted - Under Reports and Discussions, after the sentence 'Commissioner Stiehm spoke with Mary Leshelt.' it should continue 'of Amnesty International. Ms Leshelt is interested in collaborating with the Commission during the 2014-2015 school year.'

Commissioner Lemons moved to approve the minutes with the noted amendment, Commissioner Stiehm second, motion carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

One new expenditure was paid. \$100.00 for John Gutterman. \$515.82 has been spent so far this year. We have one commitment remaining for \$500.00. Commissioner Martin moved to approve the treasurer's report, Commissioner Vela second, motion carried.

4. Reports and Discussions

Information from Minnesota Department of Human Rights- Formal complaints of discrimination are directed to the MDHR. Five claims of discrimination were filed in 2013 from our county.

One was in the area of education, four were in the area of employment. One each in the areas of race, age, and sexual orientation. Two in the area of marital status. The document will be placed in the minutes.

5. New Business

Possible Bill Miller event – Commissioner Lemons reports that Mr. Miller will be coming to Minnesota on a tour. Commissioner Vela has been in contact with Paramount Theater staff. Commissioner Lemons will follow up with Mr. Miller and the contacts Commissioner Vela has made, to see what the cost would be for an event with Mr. Miller.

Summer Meeting Schedule – After discussion it was agreed that we would not hold a meeting in June, and would next meet in July.

6. Other Business

Artworks Festival – Booth rental will be about \$25.00. We want to have an activity again. Commissioner Gemmel moved to approve up to \$200.00 for expenditure for the activity, Commissioner Moritz second, motion carried. It was suggested to ask for a subcommittee.

Volunteers for that subcommittee are Commissioners Vela, Gemmel, Stiehm, and Moritz. It was suggested that Commissioners kindly sign up for shifts during the event.

Strategic Planning – Commissioner Lemons started the discussion. If our primary function is to promote education about Human Rights, should we think of other activities? Commissioner Vela brought up the discussions he has been involved in regarding current news about race, and white privilege.

Are we fulfilling our mission statement? What happens after discussions at events are over? Should we involve the Advocates for Human Rights again? Which partnerships are beneficial? A strategic planning session may help. Commissioner Lemons will be happy to organize one. He encouraged us to think about what we would do if money were no object.

The Mask You Live In- We may consider this movie from the makers of Miss Representation. It addresses how males are socialized to have, or show, few feelings and how violence is made acceptable. Commissioner Gemmel reminded us that at the last meeting we talked about presenting a film quarterly. Rather than expecting people to come to our event, we should consider 'taking it on the road' and presenting to groups. Ideally we could empower people to be part of the solution.

7. Communications

Commissioner Lemons will contact each Commissioner to determine the best date for the strategic planning session. September had been suggested.

8. Citizens Addressing the Commission.

Mr. Dan Kane addressed the Commission. He inquired as to the status of the \$500.00 for the Austin Photo Project. He requests a copy of the e-mail from the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. He spoke again of the importance of creating personal connections, and giving away the Universal Declaration of Human Rights booklets. He asked if anyone read the 300 page report from the Advocates for Human Rights. Commissioners Vela and Lemons stated they read the executive summary.

The next meeting will be July 28, 2014.

Commissioner Vela moved to adjourn at 7:22 pm, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Martin, secretary