

**Austin Human Rights Commission  
Meeting Minutes, January 25, 2016**

**Present:** Richard Lemons, Shawn Martin, Miguel Garate, Raquel Imbert, Adam Pulchinski, Lia Culbert, and Jessica Swanson

**Absent:** Jason Baskin, Andre Goodlett, and Trish Wiechmann (City Liaison)

Commissioner Lemons called the meeting to order at 6:22 PM after enough attendees for quorum.

**Citizens Address – Dan Kane**

- 22 DWIs in Austin publicized recently; wishes the 22 rapes in 2015 had been given attention, especially by Zonta at the 16 Days of Activism: Violence Against Women event
- Apologies for reaction to PowerPoint presentation by Jake and Richard. Reactions were based in fear
- Saddened that there was no service component for MLKJ event, and that there was no translation for the music in the film, nor Kevin Lindsey's speaking

**Adopt/Amend Agenda** – adopted, no changes

**Approval of November Minutes** – Minutes approved after correction from Raquel (no funds received from SMIF for Parent Empowerment Programs). Jessica moved to adopt, Adam second. Motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report:** 2015 spent \$3,655.36 of \$4,500 budget, leaving and losing \$840.64.

**Reports & Discussion:**

- a) APD Diversity/Inclusion Committee Report  
Baskin: unavailable, but pasting email here:  
"Fellow Commissioners

I have a work conflict that I cannot get out of, so I will be unable to attend our meeting on Monday night.

That said, quick update on our Education sub-committee as we've been doing a lot of work in this area. Miguel and Raquel can provide an update on Monday night.

- We've met several times over the past month, and now have a clear goal for our work
- Goal is to review key programs around Early Education & Post-Secondary Readiness to ensure that we are reaching everyone in the community in the most effective manner
- We've developed a list of several actions we can take to assist with this effort, based on what we find in our research

- We are meeting with Jen Lawhead from Austin Aspires on 2/8 to go through their research around Early Ed & Post-Secondary readiness, and will develop our final action plan after that meeting

On another note, Adam/Andre and I have a meeting with Tricia and Captain McKichan on 2/9 to review the proposal for increasing diversity of APD.”

b) Update on Committee Progress from Fall Planning Meeting

- Education:** Raquel stated that they are meeting with leaders from Austin Aspires (meeting 2/8/16) and other organizations focused on education to see what is already happening. Focus on effective communication, especially with regard to early childhood education, even for mothers before babies’ birth. Then see how AHRC can partner or help.
- Access to Money & Power:** Adam stated that they will meet with APD 2/9, per Jason’s email. Regarding representation in government, Adam will ask Trish what’s already in place, what initiatives can be reenergized, etc. Also want to educate the public about how they can be involved in government, even if they don’t work in government. Maybe an event with city council to educate and go through a mock council meeting. For voting, Adam is asking the League of Women Voters what we can do to help, and will also look into Path to Citizenship. (Richard suggested getting in touch with Chuck Pratt out of KC).
- Trafficking:** Jessica shared recent story about trafficking bust in Houston. Contacted KAAL about January being National Sex Trafficking Awareness Month, but no response yet. Laura Sutherland, Sheri Wilrodt and APS completed staff training, and are ready to roll out training to students. Dan shared that it will be important to include curriculum for boys, taught by men. Richard mentioned that David Krenz, Superintendent may be a resource/support. Lia shared that she is being trained in “Word on the Street” curriculum, and can then train other trainers. She also shared training highlights from Assisi Heights/Sisters of St. Francis training, where a dummy ad was placed on backpage.com. May need to press APD with help of Jon Swensen from Rochester.

c) Condensed Brochure Status

Ready – any final comments/feedback due by Monday 2/1/16. Will be translated to at least Spanish, French and Burmese.

d) Community Conversations

Richard committing to get in touch with the Diversity Council’s new director. Next topic was poverty/socioeconomics; maybe ok to call it Access to Money and Power? Raquel doesn’t love the title, but mostly concerned with making sure that language differences are addressed thoroughly; not just in having whispered translations. Richard stated the Hormel Home could be used, and we could even start together, split into groups based on language preference, and then come back together to share. So the next conversation will

be about Access to Money & Power, and maybe then we do one about Education (involve Jen Lawhead/Amy Baskin, other community connectors who focus on education), and one about Sex Trafficking.

e) MLK Day Event

150 people attended, minimum. Popcorn and coffee/hot chocolate was a hit. Kevin Lindsey did well, although could have focused more on Austin specifically. Now what? Richard is sending an email to everyone so that the commission can reply all with thoughts.

**New Business – None**

**Other Business**

a) Taste of Nations

4/30 at El Parral. Miguel stated that there may also be a welcome reception dinner the night before at the Senior Center, but they'll want to sell tickets and keep the message clear that the actual free Taste of Nations event is Saturday 4/30 11 AM – 1 PM. Discussion of \$250-500 co-sponsorship. Jessica moved to provide \$500 for co-sponsorship. Lia second, motion carries.

b) MUA Concept Review

Richard showed video to Jake Vela at Welcome Center, and he thought it was right in their wheelhouse. They could be prime sponsor of a similar program here. Richard will send the MUA video to Shawn & Lia. Jessica will keep the idea warm with Zonta. Richard also talking with AAUW (American Association of University Women). Need data for this community and our specific needs, but possible we can bring organizations together to get this program going in Austin.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm