

Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes, April 25, 2016 (City Council Chambers)

Present: Jason Baskin, Richard Lemons, Miguel Garate, Raquel Imbert, Adam Pulchinski, Lia Culbert, Jessica Swanson, and Trish Wiechmann (City Liaison)

Absent: Shawn Martin and Andre Goodlett

Commissioner Baskin called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

1. Peter Handke – Genocide Awareness Month

Spoke about genocide in Rwanda, Book & Movie Trailer for “I’m Not Leaving” by Carl Wilkens. Might be a good film to show at a community event, can show for free. Might also partner with Riverland, Austin High, or even the Genocide Studies group from UMN next April, as they often bring speakers for Genocide Awareness Month.

2. Citizens Address – Dan Kane

Request to align citizens’ address again with city council, which changed back to the end of meetings.

Request for AHRC response on two proposals given in Feb – APD & 492 School District.

3. Adopt/Amend Agenda – adopted, no changes. Jessica moved to adopt as-is, Richard second, unanimous approval.

4. Approval of March Minutes – approved, no changes. Richard moved to approve as-is, Miguel second, unanimous approval.

5. Treasurer’s Report: 2016 spent \$1,054.12 of \$4,500 budget (after \$100 dues to League of MN Human Rights Commissions).

6. Reports & Discussion:

A. Taste of Nations Update

- Miguel: everything ready. Friday 5:30pm Greek dinner at Senior Center & Saturday 11:30am-1pm Taste of Nations at El Parral. Lots of surprises & entertainment in store & piñata for kids. There will be an AHRC table set up.
- Adam: any commissioners attending, please take photos and route to Adam.

B. “Chosen” Update

- Richard: everything ready. Wed, good to go at Hormel Historic home at 6:30pm, 2 screens in English, 1 in Spanish. Translations and handouts ready to go. Stephanie coming from Mission 21.

C. Update on Committee Progress from Fall Planning Meeting

- **Education:** Did not meet in April. Suggestion to talk to Parenting Resource Center and Health & Human Services to see if they are already programming with

expecting moms/parents. Raquel: also need to talk with WIC to see how to find/communicate to that population in Austin.

- **Access to Money & Power:** Adam: Contacted Stacy Mason, got reply, will meet regarding program at CLC with ESL/citizenship. Identify needs first, then target action.
- **Trafficking:**
 - i. Richard: Webcast “Sports & Rape Culture” – engaging male sports teams as anti-sexual violence allies
 - ii. Richard: MN Human Trafficking Task Force – Hmong presenters. Once a victim, forever unwelcome in mainstream society. Sexual violence spikes following natural disasters.

6. New Business

A. Strategic Planning Check-In

- Adam: on good track, maybe not what was originally planned, but that’s ok because questions arise about what’s viable and what’s really needed
- Jason: education can be confusing because so many people have already been working in this area for so long. May need to adjust application – fine with commissioners present.
- Raquel: need to think outside the box about strategy/tactics. Maybe focus more on cultural education and erode fear of the unknown, or other kinds of educational programs.

B. Next Steps on Community Conversations

- Richard: some money left from Episcopal Church and positive account with Diversity Council. We asked for 6 conversations, and have only done 2.
- Raquel: Highlight cultures represented in Austin?
- Jason: What was next on the old list?
 - Poverty/Socioeconomics (Richard will recirculate). Then was Education, to be connector-designed and driven.
 - Let’s pick a date: Chose June 14, 2016 on the topic of Poverty

Other business

- Lia/Jessica – overview of Human Rights Advocates training in Minneapolis. They will come to train our group for mileage reimbursement – could be good for next strategic planning meeting.
- No summer meetings in June/July/Aug

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm. Next meeting Monday 5/23/16