

**Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes, October 23, 2017**

Present: Jason Baskin, Jessica Swanson, Andre Goodlett, Miguel Garate, Oballa Oballa, Dan Mueller, Trish Wiechmann (City Liaison)

Absent: Lia Culbert, Raquel Imbert, Adam Pulchinski

Citizens Visiting: None

Commissioner Baskin called the meeting to order w/quorum at 6:17 pm.

- 1) Adopt/Amend Agenda – Unanimous pass.
- 2) Approve April Meeting Minutes – D. Mueller moved to adopt, A. Goodlett 2nd.
Unanimous pass.
- 3) Treasurer's Report – To-date \$2,512.33 remaining.
- 4) Food Pantry (Riverland) Discussion
 - O. Oballa requested help with RCC students experiencing food insecurity. Student Senate partnering with Hormel Foundation, Hy-Vee, Aldi, and others – will open food pantry next week. Will have 1 mile color run to raise \$ for food as well. M. Garate noted that Agriculture at RCC already has food shelves. O. Oballa and M. Garate agreed to firm up plans and/or partnership between Student Senate and Ag. to avoid potential confusion, and then get back to the commission.
- 5) Collaborative Discussion with Willmar Human Rights Commission (conference call with Shelly Huseby, Chair)
 - Shelly mentioned several ways Willmar's HRC has made strides in impacting their community:
 - Get agendas out to public earlier so that citizens might attend based on subjects of discussion and/or guest speakers
 - Have city council representation on HRC (they have 2 council members on commission and a city employee as secretary)
 - Focus on educating the commission (guest speakers, etc.)
 - Utilize local cable TV to air interviews/events
 - Encourage faith leaders to keep HRC informed about what people are experiencing in the community (disparity, discrimination, etc.)
 - Events where community members can engage in conversational English over meals
- 6) 2018 Taste of Nations Update
 - M. Garate informed that Barbara Oehinger is helping to coordinate and the event will be a little different this year. Will be at the Armory (by the Austin airport) on April 21, 2018. Already have entertainment (African, Spanish, American Indian, Brazilian). Working on transportation, and in November will hear about the

status of a Hormel Foundation grant application. A. Goodlett and D. Mueller noted interest in a larger, more robust festival. M. Garate agreed and affirmed that it will just require more planning power and money.

7) Friday, October 27 – 10am Austin Adult Learning City Hall Event

- J. Baskin reported that Holly Wallace and Craig Clark from the City will lead a tour, and talk about city government, boards, commissions, etc. from 10-11:30am Friday. A group from Austin Adult Learning will be there, but all are welcome.

8) Sub-Group Reports

- Building a More Inclusive Community – 7 person task force established to define success and get buy-in. May get an advisory board together. J. Baskin requested that commissioners inform of anyone who would like to volunteer or anyone we think would be a good candidate.
- Increasing Access – Will meet soon.
- Gender – Used \$570 of the approved \$750, and will use more for cookies at each of the 4 nights scheduled at Riverland C100 (11/7, 11/16, 11/30, 12/7). J. Swanson will recirculate the flier to the commission, and T. Wiechmann will print for posting around the community.

- 9) Round Table – O. Oballa inquired about AHRC business cards. J. Baskin reported that he had attended an Immigrant Law Center event in Minneapolis with Sara Karki. Speaker was co-founder of SPLC and noted similar times these days with fear, overt racism. His message was that advocacy is key, and this too shall pass if we continue to push and make progress.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm. Next meeting Monday, November 27, 2017.