

Austin Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes, July 23, 2018

Present: Jessica Swanson, Sara Karki, Jennifer Braaten, Lia Culbert, Miguel Garate, Oballa Oballa

Absent: Jason Baskin, Andre Goodlett, Dan Mueller, Trish Wiechmann (City Liaison)

Citizens Visiting: None

Commissioner Swanson called the meeting to order w/quorum at 6:20 pm.

- 1) Adopt Agenda – O. Oballa moved to adopt. M. Garate 2nd. Unanimous pass.
- 2) Approve June Meeting Minutes – No minutes to review/approve. A. Goodlett will send notes from June as soon as possible.
- 3) Treasurer's Report – 2018 budget of \$4,500. \$3,016 remaining. Earmarked expenses: \$300 for "Our Austin" photo (Bill Taufic project) and \$200 for Exploring Your Community (\$100 to each location)
- 4) Key Project Discussions
 - **Honorary City Council Member**
 - City Council will vote on whether to adopt the program on 8/6/18
 - AHRC should compile the list of names generated at June meeting and circulate the group for any final additions before routing to the city. This may help confirm that there are high quality, willing candidates for the role.
 - **Proactively Recruit More Diverse Boards & Commissions**
 - Propel provided a proposal for \$900 + mileage; Diversity Council originally proposed around \$2,500. S. Karki and J. Baskin have requested an updated proposal, but none has been provided to S. Karki's knowledge. Propel is holding the proposed date/time for us.
 - Propel would provide a ½ day training to a group of 10-15 emerging multicultural leaders, which would teach the basics about involvement on boards/commissions. This would include things like Roberts Rules, committee structures, and maximizing impact.
 - Proposed date/time is **Saturday 9/22 from 9am-2pm**. Would include lunch. 9am-12:30pm training with Propel, 12:30-1pm lunch, 1pm-2pm networking with representatives from local nonprofits & city boards and commissions.
 - The "to-do" for AHRC would be 3-fold:
 1. **Get 10-15 multicultural/diverse candidates to attend 9am-2pm**
 - a. Personal invitations will work best. Think about D. Mueller, S. Karki, and M. Garate connections/lists of likely candidates. Probably best to confirm (with RSVPs) 15+ participants so that even if some do not show up, there is a good group.
 2. **Get 4+ representatives from local boards/commissions to attend 12:30pm-2pm**
 - a. S. Karki can reach out to Gema Alvarado and Laura Helle. J. Swanson can reach out to Peggy Young and United Way. Need to invite Tom Stiem and/or Craig Clark for city. We would want to instruct them to be prepared to speak about what the impact is of participating on those boards/commissions. Need at least 4 representatives confirmed.
 3. **Provide lunch**
 - Commissioners agreed that the cost was acceptable IF we can deliver on those 3 to-do items to make the program happen.
 - J. Braaten moved to confirm with Propel for 9/22 9am-2pm. O. Oballa 2nd. **Unanimous pass.**
 - **Welcoming Week**
 - **Explore Your Community event**
 - Commissioners confirmed date/time: Monday 9/17, 6pm-7:30pm

- Commissioners confirmed to limit to 2 locations only:
 1. African Food Market (113 4th Ave NE)
 - a. O. Oballa will ask them to use the \$100 to provide tastings
 2. Tienda Y Taqueria Guerrero (301 4th Ave NE)
 - a. M. Garate confirmed that they can provide tastings with the \$100
- Both locations will be prepared to provide a tour and basic introduction/overview (where they are from, what brought them to Austin, what made them want to open their business, how it is going, etc.)
- Promotional Plan:
 1. Need broad “Welcoming Week” flyer to include this event as well as others. Flyer should be **ready by Monday 8/6**.
 - a. J. Baskin will check in with Dani Heiny at Riverland
 - b. S. Karki will provide info about the Citizenship Day party at CLC 9/17 (lunch time), and will ask Green Card Voices-Entrepreneurs contact about involvement
 - c. J. Swanson will ask The Hormel Institute about an open house or other welcoming week event/activity
 - d. Flyer should include a line that says something like “Check AHRC’s facebook page or email austinfohumanrights@gmail.com for more information”.
 - e. Need to get pricing for including in the Shopper
 - f. Send flyer by email to usual groups
 - g. Ask Dan Conrad to highlight Welcoming Week and related events
 - h. Ask same from Austin Daily Herald (could do highlight stories on each of the business owners for Explore Your Community, etc.)
 - i. S. Karki and J. Braaten willing to go to radio station (KAUS) and/or other media if provided with talking points, etc.
 - j. J. Swanson can work with Adam Pulchinski to create Facebook event(s) page(s)
 2. For Explore Your Community Specifically, we want to post in Community Education
 - a. L. Culbert will confirm what information is needed and the deadline for submitting
 - b. J. Swanson will draft a description and circulate to commissioners by email for review

5) Roundtable

- J. Swanson will check AHRC Gmail (this is done and there are no new messages)
- S. Karki attended the Human Rights Commissions Summit and learned that Austin’s HRC is unique in several ways. We have more budget and more support from our city than other commissions seem to have, but we are not as involved in advocacy or human rights violations investigations.
- Discussion: Should AHRC be more involved in challenging systemic discrimination? For example, we all know that housing discrimination is happening. What can AHRC do to be a better resource or take a more active role in addressing those claims?
 - Familiarize better with the Human Rights Act, and/or provide specific sets of rights to vulnerable populations
 - Take reports of discriminatory practices? Even if we only connect with other resources (Department of Labor, etc.), we could try to identify patterns
 - We could encourage other resources (crime victims, welcome center, etc.) to have better informational flyers available
 - Commissioners agree this question deserves more discussion at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14pm. Next meeting Monday, July 27, 2018 at 6:15pm.