

Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes, October 22nd, 2018

Present: Jason Baskin, Sara Karki, Lia Culbert, Dan Mueller, Miguel Garate, Trish Wiechmann (City Liaison)

Absent: Andre Goodlett, Oballa Oballa, Jessica Swanson, Jenni Braaten

Citizens Visiting: None

Commissioner Baskin called the meeting to order w/quorum at 6:28 pm.

- 1) Adopt Agenda - Amended to add MLK discussion to Roundtable
- 2) Approve September Meeting Minutes – Corrected spelling of commissioner Garate’s name. Motion to approve from Miguel with Sara 2nd.
- 3) Treasurer’s Report – 2018 budget of \$4,500. Total spent YTD \$3,465.20. 200.00 still outstanding leaving 800.00+ in 2018 budget.
- 4) Strategic Welcoming Plan
 - Submit names to have for pool of names
 - Explore Community Event
 - Quarterly would be a good goal.
 - Keeping ideas fresh
 - One in September during Welcoming Week and then look forward to maybe April or May.
 - Do the market tour but be cautious in advertising food.

Updates on Key Projects:

- **Proactively recruiting diverse boards** – Deciding on best way to move forward connecting with people who seem interested without overwhelming potential volunteers.
- Sara K. suggested mini sessions for leadership development.
- How to track progress: Careful not to focus on just race but all types of diversity – disabilities, gender, orientation and identity. Miguel shared how certain requirements need to change. It is already a challenge to fill requirements of diversity, but then expect a minority to have ‘X amount of years’ experience on top of the qualifications is unrealistic.
- Jason will contact different agencies to see if there’s data concerning % non-white and % male/female.

Our goal is not to judge where things are now, but to just track and point out where disparities are found and how to move toward change.

 - **Gender** – No meeting held yet.

5) Roundtable –

- **MLK** – Looking at movie. Lia mentioned *Dolores* a documentary on Dolores Huerta the Commissioner Swanson has recommended
- **AAUW** – November 13th presentation on women's rights in the Islamic Faith 6:30-7:30 at Austin Public Library
- **Day of the Dead celebration** - At Riverland Nov 1 & 2. Miguel asked for 200.00 to help with expenses. Commission authorized 100.00.
- **Motion to set aside funds for MN Dept of Human Rights Symposium Dec 4th and 5th** – Motion to approve mileage and registration for up to 3 attendees.
- **Dan M.** – Dan updated the commission on the fact that there have been four suicides in the multi-cultural Austin/ Albert Lea community in recent weeks. This tragically highlights the realities of complex trauma refugee populations face on top of other aspects of daily living.
- **Sara K.** – Shared the gift dolls available for immigrant arrivals.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm. Next meeting Monday, November 26th, 2018 at 6:15pm. Austin Public Library.