

Austin Human Rights Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
January 28, 2019

Present: Sara Karki, Andre Goodlett, Jessica Swanson, Miguel Garate, Jenni Braaten, Gouthan Putta, Sarah Hartman

Absent: Oballa Oballa, Dan Mueller

Citizens visiting: None

Commissioner Karki called the meeting to order with quorum at 6:17 pm. Sarah Hartman and Goutham Putta are the new incoming commissioners replacing Lia Culbert and Jason Baskin.

- 1) Adopt Agenda-Andre motioned and Jessica seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2) Jessica motioned and Andre seconded for Jenni Braaten to be appointed as the secretary for the commission. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Andre motioned and Sarah Hartman seconded to approve the December minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Treasurer's Report
  - In 2018, the majority of the \$4,500 was spent on programming.
  - Budget for 2019 remains consistent with previous years at \$4,500
  - Discussion on the Welcoming America invoice for \$450 for continued affiliation with their organization. In the past, the City of Austin paid the fee but now the request is for the fee to be paid out of the HRC annual budget. The original fee was \$1,500 but Austin was given a scholarship of \$1,050 to offset the cost; leaving \$450. Jessica reviewed what is received for the fee such as webinars, tool kit, resources. Andre highlighted the leadership boot camp last fall and the discussion of a city paid position of a cultural liaison were some of what came out of the combined work over the past year. Discussion continued around why it is now up to the HRC and if that shifts all the responsibility on the commission versus the City of Austin maintaining its commitment to diversity. Jessica motioned and Miguel seconded to ask the City of Austin to continue to pay the fee to remain affiliated with Welcoming America or increase the HRC budget by \$450. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5) Mission and Goals for 2019
  - Discussion on past work of poverty, gender roles and power/influences.

- Austin is unique as there is a budget from the city for HRC but no investigatory power for human right violations as many other cities.
- Discussion on continuing to address and support
  - Welcome Week Events (September)
  - Taste of Nations (April)
  - Gender Roles
- Jessica discussed the importance of continuing to highlight minority businesses.
- Discussion on the Pillars of the Community and the raise awareness as to the lack of women (only one to date) as a city pillar. Discussion on the committee which decides the pillars and how to best raise awareness, address inequity and encourage more diversity within the acknowledged pillars.

#### 6) MLK Event

- The PBS documentary movie "Rise" was shown at the Paramount followed by Andre facilitating a discussion with the audience. An estimated 32 people were present at the 12 pm showing and less people at the 6 pm showing. In 2018, the showing times were 12 pm and 7 pm.

#### 7) HRC T-shirts

- Miguel arranged for the t-shirts but there was no logo embroidered into the shirt. Jessica motioned and Jenni seconded for the shirts to have the logo put on them. Unanimously approved.

#### 8) Taste of Nations

- There will be a planning meeting on 2/5/2019 from 5-7:30 pm at the Austin Public Library. This year the event will take place at Packer Arena on April 6, 2019. Miguel shared he will be asking the HRC for a donation but will wait for the next meeting to ask. Discussion on the liability issue of having individuals provide the food, if someone would become ill. This year, the committee is working with Hy-Vee to cater the food and avoid the liability issue all together.

#### 9) Roundtable

- Jessica-it is okay to preach to the choir because it is important to continue to get the message out and energize people.
- Miguel-encouraged HRC support for the Taste of Nations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenni Braaten