

**Austin Human Rights Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 22, 2019**

Present: Sara Karki, Oballa Oballa, Sarah Hartman, Andre Goodlett, Jessica Swanson and liaison Tricia Wiechmann.

Absent: Miguel Garate, Goutham Putta, Dan Mueller, Jenni Braaten

Commissioner Karki called meeting to order 6:15pm w/ quorum.

- Adopt Agenda – Unanimous.
- Approve March Minutes – Andre 1<sup>st</sup> / Oballa 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous pass.
- Only new expense since last meeting was registration of \$43 for conference SK went to. \$2,787.56 remaining on paper. Another expense pending is for SK transportation/hotel for Welcoming America in Pittsburgh ~\$1,100, but scholarship coming from Welcoming America for \$600. So about \$500
- Gender & Sexuality
  - **Pride?**  
Sarah reached out to Marie Lechelt, but hasn't heard back yet. Trish remembers an event where parents talked. Andre thinks it's important that we do something to bring LGBTQ issues into awareness in terms of being "welcoming". Sarah will go to a meeting at RCC (Thursdays at 12:30pm)
- Welcoming & Equitable Inclusion
  - **Drivers Licenses**  
House File 1500 passed the house and our rep voted for it. Amazing, been working for 10 years on it. Dan Sparks will do it if it gets presented, but maybe not the strongest supporter. But he hasn't said know. Letter to Mayor sent. Police Chief and Sherriff both said they support it. Call senators and let them know.
  - **Debrief Taste of Nations event**  
Lots of positive feedback this year. Mayor got quoted as saying that people that move here don't give up their cultures; they add to our culture. Maybe next year a little bit of a hybrid for food next year where restaurants make lots of food but also help people get permits/licenses that they need to make home-cooked food. If 4/25 next year, could potentially have access to the orchestra. Worked well to have Welcome Center take ownership. Venue was best so far.
  - **Essay Contest**  
Maybe connect over the summer with the schools to discuss where they could fit it into their schedule without cramming. Best to plan it for next year. Time to plan exact questions, choose gifts.

- What's next?
  - September will be Welcoming Week. Anything we want to get started with now? Maybe the Community Ed event where we choose 2 minority-owned businesses to feature. Maybe Sudanese market by Top Ten and another one that will be relocating across the street soon? Might need to consider food licenses, or maybe even cooking demos? Oballa will talk to Sudanese market, and Sara can talk to Maylary.
  - Challenging Islamophobia in Rural MN Conference – Andre & Sara went.
  - Council is well aware that boards and commissions are light in minority #s. But it's a struggle to get anyone to volunteer at all in general, so it's especially challenging. Maybe Welcoming America has a toolkit for increasing diversity on boards, or developing leadership in the minority communities? What are other communities doing? Maybe something like the honorary council member?
  - Could create video clip/orientation piece about what you would be expected to do and what the room looks like, etc. for the Honorary City Council member commitment. Also encourage female applicants. There is just one application now.
  
- Roundtable
  - Food drive next week at Sterling.
  - Next meeting 5/20/19
  
- Adjourned at 7:40pm