

**Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes, May 20,2019**

Present: Sarah Hartman, Sara Karki, Goutham Putta, Jenni Braaten, Miguel Garate, Andre Goodlett, Tricia Wiechman

Absent: Oballa Oballa, Dan Mueller, Jessica Swanson

Citizens Visiting: None

Commissioner Karki called the meeting to order with quorum at 6:23 pm.

- 1) Adopt/Amend Agenda – Commissioner Hartman motioned, unanimous pass
- 2) Treasurer's Report – It was unclear as the Pittsburgh trip taken to Welcome America Conference by Commissioner Karki had not yet posted. There was \$32 in ground transportation yet to be paid. Tricia will get the report once all expenses had been paid from the trip.
- 3) Intro to the MN Human Rights Act – Goutham passed out a grid to which illustrated there are 13 protected classes in Minnesota. Discussion centered around the different types of protected classes. Commissioner Karki encouraged all commissioners to visit and review the MN Department of Human Rights website. If there is a suspicion of a human rights violation, Commissioner Goutham stated it is important to record names, all information with details and then report it.
- 4) Gender and Sexuality – Commissioner Hartman had reached out to Marie Lechelt at Riverland regarding partnering with the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) at Riverland for some events or work with PRIDE month in June. Marie shared Riverland students have dismissed for the summer and there is not much happening over break right now but could maybe connect again during the upcoming academic year. Discussion was then focused on providing rainbow flags for PRIDE in June within the downtown area. Discussion on cost of flags, type of flags, where the flags would be housed during the rest of the year, and who would put up the flags ensued. Commissioner Hartman motioned and Commissioner Goodlett seconded to spend up to \$500 on PRIDE flags with unanimous approval. Due to time constraints as June was just a few weeks away and questions on the budget it was decided to table the discussion until more details were clarified before moving forward. Discussion continued onto running an ad highlighting PRIDE in the Austin Daily Herald. Commissioner Hartman and Tricia will further investigate into the cost and availability into this.
- 5) Welcoming America Conference – Commissioner Karki discussed her experience from the recent trip to Pittsburgh. She provided numerous hand-outs of human rights work from different locations across the country. One idea came from revitalizing a farmer's market and how to incorporate more minority populations into the market. Discussion on the struggles of the Austin Farmer's Market, finding a commercial community kitchen where different groups or individuals could use to cook food to

meet state statute requirements, availability of land to group produce and how to provide opportunity to grow food were discussed.

- 6) Welcoming Week – Commissioner Karki asked commissioners for feedback on activities from the past year. It was decided to follow the same format as last year since it was a successful week.
- 7) Driver's License/Municipal ID – Commissioner Karki shared the community turn-out was in strong support for a municipal ID for the City of Austin. As of 5/9/2019, the bill was waiting for passage at the MN State Legislature.
- 8) Round Table:
 - a. Commissioner Garate – nothing to report
 - b. Commissioner Goodlett – moving out of Austin/MN sometime in June. He was unsure of which job opportunity he would pursue.
 - c. Commissioner Braaten – nothing
 - d. Commissioner Hartman – There is food drive with Sterling Drug through the end of May. She was willing to work on the issue for HRC t-shirts with Games People Play. Commissioner Braaten motioned and Commissioner Karki seconded to get new t-shirts with the correct logo and pay the re-stocking fee.
 - e. Commissioner Goutham – nothing to report
 - f. Commissioner Karki – After Hours Group will be hosting the Social Media Marketing/Austin Area Minority Business Project on May 22 at 6 pm.

Commissioner Braaten moved and Commissioner Hartman seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenni Braaten