

Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2019

Present: Sarah Hartman, Miguel Garate, Tricia Wiechmann, Goutham Putta, Dan Mueller and Jenni Braaten.

Absent: Sara Karki, Oballa Oballa

Visiting Citizens: None

Vice-Chair Commissioner Garate called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm with a quorum present.

- 1) Adopt/Approve Agenda – Commissioner Hartman motioned and Commissioner Putta seconded to adopt the agenda and to approve the September meeting minutes with unanimous approval.
- 2) Treasurer’s Report – After paying for a Welcoming Week banner and the money approved for the Day of the Dead celebration at Riverland Community College, there is a balance of \$514.88. As previously voted upon, there is up to \$500 earmarked for the Story Stitch event in November.
- 3) The Austin Chapter of Zonta has asked to continue to co-sponsor, as in past years, to run a banner line across the Austin Daily Herald for the month of November which is domestic violence awareness month. The cost is \$62.50. Commissioner Mueller motioned and Commissioner Hartman seconded and the motion was approved with unanimous approval.
- 4) Story Stitch – Commissioner Karki will be leading this event at the Ruby Rupner Center on November 6, 2019, from 6-8 pm. Commissioner Garate stated he has been working on recruiting students from Riverland to attend. All commissioners were asked to spread the word and encourage civic participation with as many people as possible.
- 5) Dia de Muertos – Commissioner Garate discussed the preparations happening at Riverland for this event. He shared it continues to grow each year. It will be on the Riverland Facebook page as it is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to bring family photos of those who have died as a symbol of remembrance.
- 6) Honorary Council Members – Commissioners were reminded to continue to encourage people to consider being an honorary city council member.
- 7) Human Rights Commission – There are two current openings on the commission; Andre Godlett’s and Jessica Swanson, both of which have moved from Austin. Commissioner Mueller and Commissioner Braaten have expiring terms in December 2019. If they are not planning to renew it would leave four openings.

Roundtable discussion

- Commissioner Braaten discussed the Austin branch of AAUW is hosting an Islamic Faith speaker on November 12 from 6:30-8 pm at the Mower County Senior Center. This is free and open to the Austin community at no charge.
- Taste of Nations has started the planning for next spring already. A \$10,000 grant was applied for this event and the committee is waiting to hear back if they will receive the funding.
- Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual meeting on November 14 at the Hormel Home.
- There is a new group, “Connecting Young Professionals” which has started in Austin and holds monthly meetings.

Commissioner Mueller moved and Commissioner Hartman seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenni Braaten
Secretary