

Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2020

Present: Oballa Oballa, Goutham Putta, Sarah Hartman, Sara Karki, Dan Mueller, Jenni Braaten, Miguel Garate, Ron Schultz and City liaison Tricia Wiechmann

Absent: Desahna Belden

Visiting Citizens: Stephanie Holtorf, Hormel Institute, Kristin Stipler, Hormel Corporation and United Congregational Church and Mary Holtorf, leadership training and coaching

Commissioner Karki called the meeting to order at 6:16 pm with quorum present.

1. Adopt/Approve Agenda – Commissioner Garate moved and Commissioner Oballa seconded to approve the December minutes and adopt the meeting agenda.
2. Treasurer’s Report – The 2020-year budget is \$6,500 which is an increase of \$1,500 from previous years. This increase is to provide funding for continued membership to Welcoming America membership. Other expenses include \$195 was spent for the MLK event. The United Congregational Church gave a donation of \$500. Current balance is \$6,805.
3. Election of officers – Discussion on elected officers. Commissioner Schultz asked if the same officers could continue. After continued discussion, it was decided Commissioner Karki would remain as the chair, Sara Hartman would be the vice-chair and Commissioner Braaten would continue to serve as secretary. Commissioner Putta moved and Commissioner Mueller seconded, passed with unanimous approval.
4. Review of MLK event – There were an estimated twenty people in attendance for the both the 1pm and 6 pm showing of the movie, “Across Many Rivers; Episode 6”. There was discussion for next year on whether to continue with a movie or something else. Commissioner Garate suggested a march outside in the city for next year. It was suggested making a visual presence of marches conducted by Martin Luther King. Such a march had taken place in the past and it was discussed to renew this activity from the past.
5. Discussion for the year ahead of activities – Commissioner Garate suggested the Commission be more visible and prevalent in the community. Discussion of how to promote events within the Austin community. Commissioner Karki agreed to try to promote events on the AHRC Facebook page.
 - a. Pride Week – Commissioner Hartman will lead the organization of events
 - b. Commissioners Oballa, Mueller and Garate will lead the 2020 Census work, Welcoming Week and Taste of Nations
 - c. Black History, Latino Heritage, Asian Heritage Month – Commissioners Mueller and Schultz will lead

- d. Taste of Nations – Commissioner Putta will take the lead.
6. Taste of Nations – Commissioner Putta is on the official committee and reported they did not receive a \$10,000 grant they had applied for. As a result, there is more pressure to come up with the funds needed to put the event on. Commissioner Garate moved and Commissioner Putta seconded to give \$1,000 to the Taste of Nations event from AHRC. Unanimous approval. Taste of Nations will be on April 25, 2020 at the Packer Arena.
7. Welcoming America delegation visit – March 16 there will be 10 leaders from different states coming to Austin to see what the city has done to be a welcoming environment for immigrants. The plan of the tour is for the group to attend a city council meeting to see first-hand the honorary city council member, Spam Museum, Hormel Institute. Commissioner Karki will be assisting in leading the tour. All commissioners were encouraged to meet the delegation at the city council meeting social hour at 5 pm on March 16.
8. Roundtable
- Mary Holtorf – shared appreciation for the work the AHRC does. She offers a Friday leadership book study on the third Friday of the month from 7:15-8:15 am at South Central Athlete. The group is reading the book, “Good to Great”. All are welcome to join.
 - Sara Karki – was MN Lawyer of the Year in 2019!
 - Concern some transgender people were being denied healthcare was brought up by visiting citizen Stephanie Holtorf.
 - Commissioner Goutham – shared he sometimes has felt the commission gets something started but then the ball gets dropped. He encouraged everyone to try to keep the momentum going between meetings.
 - Discussion of making a Google calendar to help track timelines for events.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jenni Braaten
AHRC Secretary