

**Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2020**

Members Appearing Electronically: Sara Karki, Sarah Hartman, Jenni Braaten, Miguel Garate, Stephanie Holtorf and liaison, Tricia Wiechmann.

Absent: Goutham Putta, Oballa Oballa, Dan Mueller, DeShana Belden.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and restrictions on meeting in groups, the meeting was held via a Zoom conference call. Commissioner Karki called the meeting to order at 6:18 PM with quorum present.

1. Adopt/Approve Agenda – Commissioner Garate motioned to approve and Commissioner Hartman seconded the motion to approve the meeting agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Meeting minutes – Commissioner Garate motioned to approve and Commissioner Hartman seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes from October.
3. Budget – Current operating budget balance is \$1,085.36. Budgetary expenses included \$457.80 for audio books for the book club, \$475 for the billboard in December for Human Rights Day, \$150 Riverland Dia de los Muertos and \$360 books for the book club.

New Business

4. MLK Holiday
 - Commissioner Braaten shared correspondence with the speaker for MLK, Dr. Christopher Lehman. He wrote the book “Slavery’s Reach: Southern Slaveholders and the North Star State”. The idea is to have Dr. Lehman discuss the theme of his book in the broader context of racial justice. After much discussion, Commissioner Braaten moved to approve \$500 for the speaking fee for the MLK event with Commissioner Karki seconded. Motion passed unanimously. There was more discussion on having Dr. Lehman speak for 30-40 minutes and then has a panel discussion with local leaders. Newly elected Mayor Steve King, a diversity chair from Hormel and Murielle Atewologun as potential panel guests. Trish will reach out to Mayor-elect King, Commissioner Garate will reach out to Murielle Atewologun, and Commissioner Braaten will reach out to Commissioner Putta about the Hormel diversity liaison.
5. Book Club
 - The Austin Public Library has also begun a book club focused on racial justice and has chosen the same book at AHRC for January. After much discussion, it was decided to continue to partner and support the book club with APL for January but ARHC will no longer be the lead.

6. Human Rights Billboard

- Commissioners Hartman and Trish have been working on the billboard which will run December 5-13.

7. AHRC Podcast

- Commissioners Putta, Holtorf and Hartman continue to explore and discuss how to do a podcast based in the Austin community. At this time, no request for financial support as the subgroup is continuing to learn, explore, and develop ideas.

8. Zonta Club

- Commissioner Karki moved and Commissioner Holtorf seconded spending \$75 of the budget to run the strip with Zonta Club in the Austin Daily Herald in raising awareness of domestic violence.

9. Upcoming Events

- Outgoing Mayor Stiehm's last city council meeting will be 12/21/20. AHRC will present a plaque with Mayor Stiehm's name engraved on it for his support over his tenure as Mayor.

10. Roundtable

- Commissioner Oballa was elected to the city council; his term is up at the end of this year 12/31/20 and will not seek another term on the HRC. Commissioner Karki accepted a job outside of Austin, her term is also up at the end of this year and since she will not be living in Austin, will not be eligible to serve on the HRC. Discussion of new appointments to the HRC will need to be made as well as filling the Chair position.

With no further business identified, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenni Braaten
Secretary