

**Austin Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 21, 2020**

Members Appearing Electronically: Sara Karki, Sarah Hartman, Jenni Braaten, Stephanie Holtorf, Goutham Putta and Trish Wiechmann.

Absent: Oballa Oballa, Dan Mueller, Desahna Belden and Miguel Garate

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 Hartman motioned to approve and Commissioner Braaten seconded the motion to approve the meeting agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Meeting minutes – Commissioner Hartman motioned to approve and Commissioner Braaten seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes from November.
3. Budget – Current operating budget balance is \$374.86 budgetary expenses included \$62.50 for the Zonta advertisement in the Austin Daily Herald for domestic violence awareness.

New Business

4. Vickie Spyhalski, incoming Commissioner, and Bukata Hayes of the Greater Mankato Diversity Council presented on a journaling project called “Write on Race”. It was a project in which people of Mankato participated over a two-year period in which they journaled on racial equity and historical policy impacts on people of color. Discussion was centered on the possibility of organizing a similar group within the city of Austin and if AHRC would be interested in sponsoring or partnering with other organizations. Bukata presented his work and provided information on the details of what this endeavor would entail. Commissioner Karki moved to purchase up to four of the journaling books for future use, seconded by Commissioner Hartman. Motion passed unanimously.
5. MLK Event – Billboard will run the week before. Flyers are done and can be distributed. Email will be sent out to various organizations and community groups. Panel presenters after Dr. Lehman will be Mayor Steve King, Councilmember Oballa Oballa and Murielle Atewologun. Discussion of promotion on Facebook. Commissioner Braaten motioned and Commissioner Karki seconded to spend the remaining 2020 budget on a promotional advertisement of the event on the Austin Daily Herald and a Facebook boost. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Podcast Subgroup – Nothing to report at this time but hope to have more information after the subgroup can meet again.

Roundtable

Commissioner Karki has accepted a promotion with the Immigrant Law Center and will be primarily based out of the Twin Cities. As a result, she will not be serving another term (ends 12/31/20) from the AHRC both as a commissioner and the chair. A new chairperson will need to be elected at the January meeting.

Respectfully submitted.

Jenni Braaten
Secretary