

MINUTES
CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
ONE CITY HALL PLAZA
CHASKA CITY HALL
THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2010

1. Call to Order
Chairperson Fairchild called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
2. Roll Call:
Present: Libby Fairchild, Chairperson; Commissioners Laxmi Govindan, Adela Pollock, Taylor Hubbard, Trisha Leck, Tracey Pass, Barbara Colhapp; and Staff Liaison Bart Fischer. Commissioner Molly Koivumaki arrived late.
Absent: Commissioner Alan Beck, Adopt the Agenda
3. Adopt the Agenda
Motion by Commissioner Leck , second by Commissioner Govindan to adopt the agenda as presented.
Motion carried.
4. Approve Minutes of the May 6, 2010 Human Rights Commission Meeting
Motion by Commissioner Govindan, second by Commissioner Leck to approve the May 6, 2010 HR meeting minutes, with corrections to spelling of Commissioner Pollock's first name in the first paragraph and a typo on the word March in the third paragraph.
Motion carried.
5. Discussion Regarding the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commission Annual Award Contest.
The chair suggested that Gordon Stewart from Shepard of the Hill Church be nominated and the Commission agreed. Motion made by Commissioner Leck and seconded by Commissioner Govindan. The chair will contact Pastor Stewart so as to obtain information for the application.
6. Discussion on River City Days
The chair announced that the fee to participate in the event will be \$25.00 this year, because the Commission is conducting interactive diversity games. She also shared samples of the items received from the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR). We have 20 copies of a DVD of the history of Human Rights in Minnesota, so there was some discussion as how to use them. It was suggested that as part of the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commission's Annual Essay contest, that copies be distributed to the Middle Schools in Chaska and the Public Library. We believe that copies were already given to East Middle School and to World Learner's, and perhaps to the Chaska Library, but we want to confirm that it is readily available to students who may want to participate in the contest in the future.

Commissioner Govindan will provide a television/DVD player so that the DVD received from the MDHR may be played throughout the event.

There was a discussion about creating a marketing piece for the Human Rights Commission highlighting its activities.

Because the MDHR had provided stickers with their anti-discrimination logo, it was suggested that we create stickers with the Chaska Human Rights Commission logo on it.

Commissioner Koivumaki agreed put together the interactive games and Commissioner Leck will obtain candy and/or trinkets to distribute to the participants in the games.

The schedule for working the event is:

5-8:00 on Friday evening – Commissioners Pass and Fairchild
9:00-noon on Saturday – Commissioner Govindan
Noon-3:00 on Saturday – Commissioner Colhapp
3:00-6:00 – Commissioner Leck

The rest of the members of the Commission should feel free to work the event as they are able and to be ready to commit at the June meeting.

7. Discussion/Update on League of Minnesota Human Rights Commission (LMHRC) Essay Contest

The Essay Contest Event on May 15th at the Community Center was published in the *Chaska Herald*. Thank you to Commissioner Hubbard for providing the picture and to Commissioner Colhapp for providing the information to the newspaper. Commissioner Koivumaki and the chair announced that they had presented copies of the National Geographic book, *The Bill of Rights*, to three of the participants and the library at Guardian Angels School, as part of this event. Commissioner Leck is handling the same for the World Learner's School.

8. Hometown Holiday/Tree Lighting Event

This event is moving forward, but not without some issues. Our volunteer Santa, who has so graciously given of his time over the past several years, will not be available on December 4, so a search is on. It was suggested that our current Mayor and the former Mayor be contacted to see if there was an interest by a member of the Chaska Fire Department. The Chair also reported that she will be submitting a letter or column to the newspapers asking for volunteers for the committee planning this day-long event, as well as for donations from the business community.

9. Alternate Members for the Commission

The Chair confirmed that the Commission may select two alternates to the Commission per City Ordinance, so a motion was made to confirm former Commissioner Ethropic Burnett as the first alternate and to continue a search for a second. The motion to confirm the first alternate was made by Commissioner Colhapp and seconded by Commissioner Koivumaki.

10. Possible Meeting Day Change:

The Commissioners in attendance could not determine a better day for the Commission's meeting other than the fourth Thursday, so the schedule will not be changed, except in the case of holiday conflicts or extreme emergencies. It was suggested that a new policy be adopted, in that all Commissioners will be required to indicate their intended attendance or absence at each meeting to the staff liaison and the chairperson no later than the close of business the Monday prior. In other words, when the Commission receives its meeting packet the week prior to a meeting, each Commissioner has the responsibility to respond within four days that they plan to attend. This informal policy would allow time for the alternate members to plan to be at meetings.

11. Hate/Bias Crime Plan and Bullying Issue

Commissioner Pass has agreed to become a part of the subcommittee that had been formed earlier this year and will provide research into the matter. The subcommittee has consisted of Commissioners Hubbard, Govindan, and Fairchild.

12. Other Business

The Chairperson reported that she has been in contact with the MDHR with regard to the Showcase that is scheduled for Carver County in September, the date and location is yet to be determined. She also reported that a similar event was taking place in Roseville, but that she could not attend because it was scheduled for the same time as this meeting.

13. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Leck, second by Commissioner Govindan to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Motion carried.