

Duluth Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2013

Present: Margie Nelson, Rebecca Domagala, Scott Yeazle, John Phung, Cruz Mendoza

Absent (excused): Chris Cherry, Robert Kaner, Cynthia Strange

Unexcused: Chris Homan

Others Present: Bob Grytdahl (staff), Steve Wick (UMD Campus Organizer MPIRG for Sweatshop Free Duluth)

1. Approval of July minutes

Margie Nelson made the motion to approve the July minutes. Rebecca Domagala seconded. Minutes approved.

2. Sweatshop Free Duluth

Steve Wick was invited by the Human Rights Commission to speak about this. It started as the Fair Trade Coalition and Duluth has a history with labor issues. MPIRG is seeking to pass a city ordinance through the City Council that all purchases are sweatshop free. They have been working with City Councilor Linda Krug on this issue. Costs are minimal. Madison and Milwaukee have passed ordinances in 2006 and 2007. www.sweatfree.org is a website that shows every ordinance that has passed. There is a purchasing consortium membership that is \$500 year for members. They have units that check out these factories. Self-reporting is the first step but is liable to lying. MPIRG will aid in crafting an ordinance. Church of Restoration and Duluth Central Labor are in support.

Cruz Mendoza made a motion the Human Rights Commission will work with MPIRG and the Duluth City Council to help create the language to create a sweat shop free purchasing ordinance. Approved: 4 to 1. Those opposed: John Phung

3. City Council Liaison – Nothing in agenda dealing with Human Rights Issues.

4. Unfair Campaign Partners Meeting – August 21 3:30 p.m. at Lake Superior College. They are in their second phase re-branding. Cruz plans to show up. Phase 2 consists of five action teams with power analysis. Identify and create relationships with power people. What happens after power analysis?

5. Old Business

A. School District - Talked of working with League of Women Voters for School Board Forum. 1, 4 and 2 at large seats up for election. The Chamber of Commerce will have a forum after primaries and League of Women Voters meet on September 6. Students for Future interested in running a forum. Possibility of a levy passing. Needs to be a question about the Achievement Gap.

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- b. Housing Issues – Federal money was allotted go give away by the fall to prevent homelessness and more by the end of the year. HRA (Housing Redevelopment Authority) to distribute and plan only to give it away month by month. Affordable Housing Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month.
- 6. New Business –
 - A. Human Rights Commission has a Facebook Page. We should use it more often for postings.
 - B. Community Events
 - 1. Hill Fest – Sunday August 25, 2013 2:00-6:00 p.m. on the Block of E. 4th Street and 6th Ave. E.
 - C. Pride Weekend – Mayor’s Reception - 5:00-7:00 at the Depot Thursday August 29th.

Adjourned: 5:54pm.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Domagala

RD:jm