

Duluth Human Rights Commission Meeting
December 14, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Cynthia Strange, Robert Kaner, Cruz Mendoza, Scot Bol, Margie Nelson, Rebecca Domagala, Michelle Naar-Obed, Scott Yeazle, Em Westerlund

Commissioners Excused: Sheryl Boman-Schneider, Brian Thorbjørnsen

Not Present: Allegra Henderson

Others: Bob Grytdahl, Human Rights Officer

Meeting was called to order by Margie Nelson at 5:06 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes

Robert Kaner moved to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Seconded by Rebecca Domagala. Minutes approved.

2. YWCA UNFAIR Campaign

January 28th will be the launch of the YWCA's UNFAIR campaign. The Citizens in Action workshop, which is taking place the same day, might be a place to discuss and educate attendees about the campaign.

The website for the UNFAIR campaign is unfaircampaign.org – we should direct folks with questions to this website for more information.

Community Action Duluth is hanging one of the UNFAIR campaign posters in their front window and so far, there has been no major feedback or disruptions.

3. Minnesota Marriage Amendment

Robert Kaner spoke about the vital nature of educating voters about this issue and urged the Commission to take a stance opposing the amendment. He thought it would be especially helpful to write an editorial as a Commission for submission to the Duluth News-Tribune. Ideas were discussed including having all Commissioners sign the letter, to get involved with the movement to oppose the marriage amendment locally, and to prepare for possible backlash.

Em will ask Gary Anderson, who is organizing around this issue locally, to come to a future meeting to speak about the amendment.

A motion was made to have Margie Nelson to draft a letter opposing the marriage amendment and a press release about the Commission's position on the issue. Motion passes.

4. Commission Retreat

What do we hope to accomplish? The cCmmission discussed this question and determined that at the next Commission meeting the team will review long-term goals and the Commission's strategic plan from a few years ago, will look at educational outreach to the public, and will also determine an agenda for the coming year.

5. Upcoming Community Events

- A. December 24th at noon, a remembrance for the homeless who have died this year, sponsored by CHUM. They will also be collecting socks, mittens, scarves, and other donations. There will be hot cocoa and cookies.
- B. Citizens in Action workshop will be January 28th at the Copper top Church, 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. This workshop is free and open to the public. Lunch will be served.
- C. Michelle Naar-Obed is participating in the Polar Bear Plunge on Feb. 18th to raise money for the Special Olympics. She will happily take your donations.

Cruz Mendoza made a motion to end the meeting. Robert Kaner seconded.
Meeting ends at 5:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Em Westerlund
Co-secretary

EW:jm