

City of Cottage Grove
Human Services/Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 9, 2008

Members Present: Tanweer (TJ) Janjua
Devan King
Rajeane Moone, Chair
Jen Peterson, Vice Chair
Christie Thompson

Members Absent: Francisco Gonzalez
Sue Kainz

Council Liaison: Mark Grossklaus

Staff Liaison: Joe Fischbach

1. Call to Order

At 7:04 PM the meeting was called to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

Christie made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2007 meeting. Jen seconded the motion, All Present in Favor.

Mark Grossklaus will be the Council Liaison to the Commission for 2008. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief background.

3. Goals and Projects for 2008

The Commission discussed what goals and/or projects that they would like to work on in 2008.

Rajeane spoke with the Vice Chair of the Stillwater Human Rights Commission and there is interest in partnering for human rights training through the MN Department of Human Rights. Rajeane will work with them to find a date that works for both Commissions.

TJ and Christie continue to work with the Yeshiva High School to do a taping of their school and some of their customs and traditions for the community TV channel. They have been in contact with one of the Rabbis and will work with them and Channel 16 to come up with a schedule and format.

Jen discussed last years National Night Out tent and what the Commission did. Mark explained why the National Night Out event at Kingston Park was not going to occur again in 2008. Jen suggested doing something similar at Strawberry Fest instead. Joe will work with the Strawberry Fest committee to get something set up.

It is the time of year when the annual Essay Contest begins. Joe will find what the topic is this year and report to the Commission.

4. Diversity Highlight of the Month

There was an article recently in the Pioneer Press about the Cedarhurst mansion and the Hmong family that currently owns it and the history of it. Joe will try to find the article and distribute to the Commission members.

5. City Update

Councilmember Grossklaus updated the Commission about projects going on in Cottage Grove. There are two PFC meetings that will occur the last month of January. The utility rates have been set for stormwater. Council is working on a plan to replace the park building in the Pine Tree Valley Park. City staff has already begun budget discussions for the 2009 budget and will be bringing information to the Council in the coming months. There is interest in building a new hotel on the lot next to Ruby Tuesday's. Mark also mentioned the foreclosures that are occurring in town and what the trend is and could be in the future.

8. Commission Comments & Requests

None, TJ may be absent from the February meeting.

9. Adjourn

Rajejan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 PM; Seconded by Jen, All Present in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Fischbach
Management Analyst