

City of Cottage Grove
Human Services/Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Members Present: John Bakou
Francisco Gonzalez
Sue Kainz, Vice Chair
Carol Logan
Laurie Steiger

Members Absent: Tanweer (TJ) Janjua, Chair

Council Liaison: Jen Peterson

Staff Liaison: Joe Fischbach

1. Call to Order

At 7:03 PM the meeting was called to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

Francisco made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2008 meeting. Sue seconded the motion, All Present in Favor.

3. Introduction of New Commission Members

John Bakou, Carol Logan and Laurie Steiger were appointed to the Commission by the City Council in January. This was their first meeting. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief biography.

4. Nominations for a New Vice Chair

Francisco nominated Sue to be Vice Chair of the Commission. The motion was seconded by Carol Logan. There were no other nominations. All present in favor of appointing Sue as Vice Chair.

5. Strategic Plan Review

6. Goals/Projects for 2009

The Commission went over the strategic planning session that was held in November and the resulting document for the new Commission members. Everyone was encouraged to review it before the next meeting and propose any changes. It will then be sent to the City Council for approval. During the same conversation goals and/or projects were discussed. Francisco informed the new members of what projects have been done in the past few years. The Commission then identified some possible projects that they would like to do in 2009. They include another video segment with the cable commission, the Clothesline Project, FacingRace, the essay contest, developing a website, articles for the monthly newsletter, a religious forum, an evening for immigrants. Everyone was encouraged to think of other ideas and bring them to the March meeting.

7. Essay Contest

The Commission did not get the word out soon enough to get submissions for the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions Essay Contest. It was the consensus of the Commission that they would like to do their own essay contest. This item will be discussed further at a future meeting.

8. Diversity Highlight of the Month

February is Black History month.

9. City Update

Jen Peterson updated the Commission on various topics. At the January 21st Council meeting Council met with staff to identify cuts to the 2009 budget because of the shortfall with most of state aid being cut. They approved the budget reductions at the February 4th Council meeting. Council also approved participation in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

10. Miscellaneous Items

Carol mentioned that she will miss the March meeting because of a conflict.

11. Commission Comments & Requests

None

12. Adjourn

Sue made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM. Seconded by Francisco, All Present in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Fischbach
Management Analyst