

City of Cottage Grove  
**Human Services/Rights Commission**  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Members Present: Francisco Gonzalez  
Mia Naseth-Phillips  
Sofia Vitale-Gill  
Tanweer (TJ) Janjua, Chair

Members Absent: Sue Kainz, Vice Chair (resigned March 9, 2010)  
Laurie Steiger

Council Liaison: Jen Peterson

Staff Liaison: Ken Smith

Others Present:

**1. Call to Order**

At 7:05 PM the meeting was called to order by TJ. The Human Services/Human Rights Commission wished to show its thanks to Sue Kainz for her valuable service and wished her well with future endeavors. Sue resigned from the commission on March 9, 2010.

**2. Approval of Minutes from January 13, 2010.**

TJ made a motion to approve the January 13<sup>th</sup> minutes. There was no quorum for the February meeting so there were no minutes to approve.

**3. Essay and Poster Contest**

Ken updated the committee on his efforts to advertise the essay and poster contest. He informed the committee that he placed advertisements in the Cottage Grove Newsletter, sent out a press release to all the local papers and advertised on Facebook. It was agreed to send notice of the contest to District 833 as well.

TJ thanked everyone involved. Ken asked who would grade the essays and TJ responded that the committee traditionally grades the essay and would do it again this time. The committee agreed to grade them on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Francisco informed the committee that last year Joe Fischbach sent the essays via email to the members of the committee and everyone graded them. TJ asked Ken to hide the names before sending them out. TJ asked about prizes. The group discussed the handing out of certificates. Sofia said she would look into it. TJ asked her to come back with three samples for the group to vote on. It was agreed that if she sent them to Ken he would print them out. It was agreed the winners' work would be displayed at Strawberry Fest. The committee is looking into a table to display the winners.

**4. 2010 Census**

TJ asked if everyone had seen his editorial and encouraged the committee to remind their family and friends to participate in the census.

## **5. MN Dept of Human Rights Newsletter**

The MN Department of Human Rights newsletter, which comes out four times a year, was shared with everyone.

## **6. Diversity Highlight of the Month**

Council Member Jen Petersen brought up the fact that it is National Woman's History Month. TJ mentioned the MPR broadcast about woman aviators during WWII. Francisco asked about the Yeshiva High School and was told they were given a little more time to raise the money they needed to purchase the building by their landlord. TJ talked about the University of Minnesota's efforts to build a Green Town at the old ammunition site off County road 46.

## **7. City Update**

Council Member Jen Petersen gave an update of City happenings including road work, hydrant flushing and tree trimming. Jen also mentioned the City is becoming a Beyond Yellow Ribbon City. She also informed the committee that they were all reappointed to serve on the Human Services/Human Rights Commission for another term. She reported the Environmental Task Force is now the Environmental Commission.

## **8. Miscellaneous**

Ken mentioned that he would put new member recruitment on the next agenda. TJ mentioned that the committee needed a new nominee for Vice Chair and encouraged the group to think about it.

## **9. Adjournment**

A motion was made at 7:55 by Mia to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Francisco.

Respectfully Submitted by;

Kenneth L. Smith ,Community Services and Communications Coordinator