

City of Cottage Grove
Human Services/Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Members Present: Francisco Gonzalez
Sue Kainz
Devan King
Rajeane Moone, Chair
Jen Peterson, Vice Chair
Christie Thompson

Members Absent: Tanweer (TJ) Janjua
Pamela Rojas

Council Liaison: Mark Grossklaus (at Council workshop)

Staff Liaison: Joe Fischbach

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Jen made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2008 meeting. Devan seconded the motion, All Present in Favor.

3. Joint City Council/Commission Meeting Discussion

Joe mentioned that the joint meeting will be at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, August 13th. After that meeting the Commission will move in to their regular meeting as that Wednesday is their regular meeting night being the second Wednesday of the month.

4. City Tour Discussion

Joe talked with Howard Blin, Community Development Director, and he is more than happy to take the Commission on a tour of the City. Joe will work with Howard to find a date that works for everyone.

5. Essay Contest- Selection of Winners

The Commission received prize sponsorships from Werner Electric Supply Minnesota and the Cottage Grove Lions, both donating \$200. There were 4 entries submitted, one being submitted late and not consider for the local contest. The Commission went through each essay and chose the winners. First place went to Jacob Banaszewski. The prize for first place is \$200. Second place went to Panhia Her. The prize for second place is \$125. Third place went to Olivia Kieffer. The prize for third place is \$75. The winners will be invited to the next Commission meeting to accept their prizes. All four entries will be submitted to the state competition.

6. Yeshiva School Series I Showing

The Commission watched the first segment of the four part series that features the Yeshiva School that is located in Cottage Grove that appears in the Cottage Grove Spotlight show on channel 16.

7. Human Rights Grants

The Minnesota Department of Human Rights and the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions are offering grants to local Human Rights Commissions for capacity building training and strategic planning initiatives. The commission was in consensus that the Commission should apply for one of the grants. Rajean will put the grant application together.

8. Diversity Highlight of the Month

March is Women’s History Month and Minnesota Foodshare Month.

9. City Update

The City held a groundbreaking for the ice arena expansion last month. Residents have begun to move in to the Presbyterian Homes senior complex. A ribbon cutting will occur once the landscape is complete, probably late May or early June. Commission members were given a PowerPoint handout with highlights of the recent community survey that was done by Decision Resources, Ltd.

10. Commission Comments & Requests

None

11. Adjourn

Sue made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM. Seconded by Jen, All Present in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Fischbach
Management Analyst