

City of Cottage Grove
Human Services/Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Members Present: Francisco Gonzalez
Tanweer (TJ) Janjua, Chair
Mia Naseth-Phillips
Carol Logan
Laurie Steiger

Members Absent: John Bakou
Sue Kainz, Vice Chair

Council Liaison: Jen Peterson

Staff Liaison: Joe Fischbach

1. Call to Order

At 7:04 PM the meeting was called to order. Mia Naseth-Phillips was recently appointed to the Commission and this was her first meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Carol made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2009 meeting. Laurie seconded the motion, All Present in Favor.

3. Speaker from the Minnesota Department of Human Rights

Mario Hernandez from the Dept of Human Rights gave a presentation to the Commission. He discussed the Minnesota Human Rights Act, the filing of a claim process and how his department operates and partners with other agencies such as the Cottage Grove Human Rights/Human Services Commission. Their department has three areas that they focus on; investigations, compliance and, outreach and education. Each year they have, on average, 12,000 to 15,000 contacts with individuals and 800 to 1,000 charges filed. Many of the contacts do not result in charges filed by the department for one of three reasons; lack of jurisdiction, the statute of limitations expired or lack of cooperation from the charging party. Mario indicated that there is still funding from the grant the department received and they want to use a portion of it for organizations to engage the public in the areas that they serve.

4. Diversity Highlight of the Month

Carol shared with the Commission a gender training session that she attended.

5. City Update

Council Liaison Peterson provided the update. The Finance and Administrative Services Director has accepted a similar position with another city. There recently was an upgrade to the City's bond rating. The Community Center Task Force is currently being put together. The city recently made changes to the locations of the Supervised Playground program. The City has put together

a grant application to hire police officers through grant funding. The volunteer recognition banquet will be April 22nd.

6. Miscellaneous Items

Carol indicated she will be absent from the May meeting.

7. Commission Comments & Requests

None

8. Adjourn

Laurie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM. Seconded by Mia, All Present in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Fischbach
Management Analyst