

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

Members Present: Lindsay Florin
Francisco Gonzalez
Tanweer (TJ) Janjua
Sue Kainz
Devan King
Rajeane Moone, Chair
Pamela Rojas
Christie Thompson

Members Absent: Jen Peterson, Vice Chair

Council Liaison: Mark Grossklaus

Staff Liaison: Joe Fischbach

1. Call to Order

At 7:01 PM the meeting was called to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

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

3. Presentation of Awards- Essay Contest

The Commission presented the prizes and certificates to the three top winners of the local Essay Contest. First place went to Jacob Banaszewski, second place went to Panhia Her and third place went to Olivia Kieffer. Their families were also present to watch them accept the awards and take photographs.

4. Selection of New Commission Chair

Chair Rajeane Moone purchased a home in Apple Valley and has resigned from the Commission. Because of this a new Chair must be selected. Rajeane nominated Jen Peterson for the position of Chair, Sue seconded the motion, All Present in Favor. The nomination will be brought before the City Council for approval. Because Jen was Vice Chair a new Vice Chair also has to be selected. Because Jen was absent from the meeting she asked Rajeane to nominate TJ for her as Vice Chair, seconded by Sue, All Present in Favor.

5. Yeshiva School Series II Showing

The Commission watched the second 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.

6. Status of Grant Application

Rajeau put together the grant application for the monies available through the Minnesota Department of Human Rights for strategic planning and developing a comprehensive work plan for the Commission. The Commission should find out the status of the application in the coming weeks.

7. Diversity Highlight of the Month

Several of the Commission members attended the Ambassadors awards presentation for the FacingRace initiative. Rajeau was one of the Ambassadors. They were very impressed with the reception and the overall presentation.

8. City Update

Councilmember Grossklaus gave the city update. Lindsay was approved by Council to serve on the Commission. Council recognized several other commissioners from different Commissions who served as long as term limits would allow. They also recognized Brian Hagen for serving 13 years as a police reserve officer. He also went over the Strawberry Festival schedule of events that will be held the weekend of June 13th and 14th.

10. Commission Comments & Requests

Sue told Rajeau that she had nominated him for Volunteer of the Year.

11. Adjourn

Sue made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM. Seconded by Devan, All Present in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Fischbach
Management Analyst