

City of Cottage Grove
Human Services/Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Members Present: Lindsay Florin
Francisco Gonzalez
Tanweer (TJ) Janjua, Vice Chair
Sue Kainz
Devan King
Jen Peterson, Chair
Christie Thompson

Members Absent: Pamela Rojas

Council Liaison: Mark Grossklaus

Staff Liaison: Joe Fischbach

1. Call to Order

At 6:07 PM the meeting was called to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

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

3. Strawberry Fest “Clothesline Project” Display

It was discussed that the Commission would possibly have the Clothesline Project display out at Strawberry Fest. Because of other commitments from Commission members this will not be an option. The Commission will look for other opportunities to display the project.

4. Need for Assisted Living / Independent Living Facilities for Non-Elderly Adults

The Commission discussed the potential need for assisted living / independent living facilities for non-elderly adults. Currently there are 26 group homes in Cottage Grove, although the ages of the residents are not readily known. The Commission would like to research if there is a need beyond the current facilities available. It was reported that they are full and have a waiting list. Commission members will work to find out more information from various sources on the topic such as Washington County and a few private facilities that have locations in other cities.

5. Yeshiva School Series III Showing

The Commission watched the third 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

The grant was submitted and approved by the Department of Human Rights for up to \$1,500.00. At the last City Council meeting the City Council accepted the grant. The Commission plans on holding the strategic planning session on a Saturday in November.

7. Diversity Highlight of the Month

Sue mentioned that due to the economy many people are having trouble paying their utility bills. The Commission will try to provide any assistance they can to people who are looking for resources in this area.

8. City Update

Councilmember Grossklaus gave the city update. Thursday, May 15th is Police Officer Memorial Day. The City is working on its surface water management plan. The Council received the County Southwest Cottage Grove Transportation Plan. Budget discussions have begun for the 2009 budget.

10. Commission Comments & Requests

Sue and Devan will not be able to attend the June meeting. Because of other commitments Christie has to resign from the Commission.

11. Adjourn

Sue made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM. Seconded by Devan, All Present in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Fischbach
Management Analyst