



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Monday February 25, 2012

5:30 – 6:30 pm in City Hall Council Chambers

6:30 – 7:30 pm in Room 1027

First Floor, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX 78701

Chair Paul Rhea called the Board Meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Paul Rhea, Chair
Elizabeth Brenner

Tom Davis
Judy Cortez

Human Resources Staff Present:

Rose Xavier, EE/FHO Staff Liaison
Joya Hayes, Assistant Director

1. CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the January 28, 2013, meeting were approved; Commissioner Cortez motion, Commissioner Brenner seconded on a 4-0 vote.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Briefing on the LGBT Initiative and Grant.

- a. Partnership with Austin Tenants' Council focusing on community education and Fair Housing testing.
- b. EE/FHO is:
 - i. Sponsoring and participating in 6 Fair Housing presentations based on LGBT issues.
 - ii. Will create and print brochures and utilize radio media for advertising events.
 - iii. Process complaints generated by ATC's Fair Housing testing efforts and these cases will be filed with HUD.

b. Establishing a Facebook page.

- a. A motion to establish a Facebook page for the Human Rights Commission was approved on Commissioner Davis' motion, Commissioner Brenner's second on a 4-0 vote.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Report from Commissioner Brenner on the City's actions in response to a request for an Attorney General opinion from State Senator Dan Patrick related to domestic partner benefits offered by Texas cities and municipalities.
 - a. The City's response was that when the constitutional amendment was enacted offering same sex benefits was discussed and deemed legal.
 - b. May 4th is the deadline for the Texas Attorney General to make a decision.

5. STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- We are currently at 80% completion of the 2012 Work Plan.
- The annual retreat will be held on March 23rd at the Mexican American Cultural Center.
- Review and discussion draft of 2012 Annual Report which is due March 30.

6. STAFF BRIEFING

- Mallory Ashlander from St. Edward's University, Student Leadership Forum called requesting someone from HRC to come speak to their group.
- Clarification from City Legal on authorized communications from individual commissioners.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Joint meeting with Commission on Women for April.
- Start thinking about celebrations for Human Rights Day.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Introduction of new members of City staff
 - Joya Hayes, Assistant Director, Human Resources
 - Jonathan Babiak, Administrator EE/FHO
 - Juanita Martinez, Investigator EE/FHO
- Commissioner Lofton will serve as a liaison to the Central Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

ADJOURN

Chair Paul Rhea adjourned the meeting at 7:47 PM without objection.