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Human Rights Commission Minutes 09/14/2004

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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~~~~~ September 14, 2004

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~~~~ In Attendance ~~~~~ Absent

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| Marlissa Briggett | Sheri Baron |
| Christine Carney | Christine Deshler |
| Nick Minton | Kim Lam |
| Cecelia Akuffo | Kevin McGann |
| Bill Shea | Jim Webster |
| Nancy Sweeney | |
| Nancy Rhoads | |

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The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m.

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The August minutes were accepted with minor corrections.

Bill Shea received information from Chief Ryan about a complaint received by the police department. The complainant was offended by a man who was wearing a T-shirt that had racial slurs written in marker. The complainant reported the incident to the police. It was decided that the Commission would write a letter to the complainant expressing dismay over the incident and informing him about the Human Rights Commission.

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Town Day

The drawing was held. The following is the list of winners:

- Not Your Average Joe's – Jeff Thielman
- Carberry's – Betsy Leondar Wright
- Arlington Restaurant & Diner – Uhl
- Asiana Grille – Tim Breeze

The Commission discussed as possible Town Day ideas for next year a multicultural cookbook including recipes and stories from Arlington residents, a T-shirt contest and a bag containing our brochure, pencils, etc. Christine Carney will report back regarding the cookbook and t-shirt ideas. Nancy Rhodes will call art teachers at Ottoson and high school to get their feedback on the t-shirt idea.

Cecilia Akuffo suggested having talking points available to Commissioners at Town Day to easily refer to that hits upon our highlights for the year.

In response to a suggestion made at Town Day, Nancy Sweeney will get the names and addresses of those couples who registered to get married on May 17th so that we may send them congratulations from the Commission.

Complaints

There is a hearing on the complaint regarding the pizza place scheduled for September 20th. A response is expected from the respondent but has not yet been received.

Everyday Hero Award

We need to publicize that we're seeking nominations for everyday hero awards. Cecilia Akuffo will write something for the Arlington Advocate.

Dialogues

Plans are underway for the October 25th dialogue involving a "Meet the Candidates" event for the Seventh Congressional District race. It will take place at the Robbins Library at 7:30 p.m. and will involve questions from the Commission as well as the public.

At Town Day, Mark Rosenthal suggested that we address male spousal abuse as a possible dialogue topic. The Commission discussed this idea and, in particular, expanding the idea to include a discussion of bias in the courts in the context of parental rights and domestic violence. The Commissioners decided to invite Mr. Rosenthal to our meeting in March where we will plan next year's dialogues.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Marlissa Briggett