

NORMAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

February 28, 2011

The Norman Human Rights Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Study Session Room located at 201 W. Gray Street on February 28, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were duly posted 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Commissioners Jose Dela Cruz, Mary Drywater, Charlotte Gordon, Kay Ham, Robert Ruiz, Lisa Schmidt and Teresa Turner

ABSENT: Commissioners Mike Ridgeway and Clint Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Carol Coles

OTHERS PRESENT: None

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Item 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2011, MEETING.

Commissioner Del Cruz moved to approve the agenda of the February 28, 2011, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, and the question being approving the agenda of the February 28, 2011, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Dela Cruz, Drywater, Gordon, Ham, Ruiz, Schmidt and Turner

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the agenda of the February 28, 2011, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission was approved.

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Item 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 24, 2011, NORMAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING.

Commissioner Turner moved that the minutes of the January 24, 2011, Human Rights Commission

meeting be approved, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Dela Cruz;

Items submitted for the record

1. Norman Human Rights Commission minutes of January 24, 2011

and the question being upon approving the minutes of the January 24, 2011 meeting, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Dela Cruz, Drywater, Gordon, Ham, Ruiz, Schmidt
and Turner

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the minutes of the January 24, 2011, meeting were approved.

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Item 4, being:

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF ADDITION OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY AS A PROTECTED CLASS IN THE CITY OF NORMAN PERSONNEL MANUAL.

Member Schmidt requested that the Commission be provided with the proposed language being considered for amending the Personnel Manual regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. The Commission would like a status update on this process at the March 28th meeting.

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Item 5, being:

DISCUSSION OF "BULLIED: A STUDENT, A SCHOOL AND A CASE THAT MADE HISTORY".

Commissioner Ruiz moved that the Human Rights Commission and the Xenia Institute sponsor two viewings of the film "Bullied: A Student, A School and A Case that Made History" on March 29th at the Fred Jones Auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m. and March 31st at the Nancy O'Brian Theater beginning at 6:30 p.m., which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Turner; and the question being upon approving the Human Rights Commission sponsoring two viewings of the film "Bullied: A Student, A School and A Case that Made History" on March 29th at the Fred Jones Auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m. ;and March 31st at the Nancy O'Brian Theater beginning at 6:30 p.m. a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Dela Cruz, Drywater, Gordon, Ham, Ruiz, Schmidt
and Turner

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the Human Rights Commission and the Xenia Institute will sponsor two viewings of the film "Bullied: A Student, A School and A Case that Made History" on March 29th at the Fred Jones Auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m. and March 31st at the Nancy O'Brian Theater beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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Item 6, being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION.

The Commission discussed a recent incident with Ms. Joani Darnell and Mr. Rick Riecke, PFLAG President, regarding a family membership at the YMCA in Norman. Ms. Darnell was denied a family membership because the YMCA policy does not recognize same sex marriages. Mr. Riecke visited with the Mr. Chuck Dandridge of the Y and he stated that he was only enforcing the current policy and only the Board could change policy. Mr. Dandridge said that he would ask a committee of the board to review the policy but that committee would not meet until September of 2011. Member Teresa Turner stated that she was a member of the Board for the YMCA and she would ask at the next Board meeting if the matter could be considered. She will report back to the Commission at the March meeting.

Member Ruiz discussed with the Commission recent discussions he had had with business owners on Main Street regarding the Music Festival. He reported that people who were opposed to the festival were questioning the types of people who attended the festival. He agreed that some people are opposed to the festival, but did not think it was appropriate to base that opposition on being derogatory about the people attending the event.

Member Schmidt asked if the Commission would be interested in initiating planning for a screening of the film "Panic Nation" in April 2011. This film deals with immigration reform. The Commission agreed to this request.

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Item 7 being:

ADJOURNMENT.

Commissioner Schmidt moved that the February 28, 2011, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission be adjourned, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Dela Cruz; and the question being upon adjourning the February 28, 2011, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Dela Cruz, Drywater, Gordon, Ham, Ruiz, Schmidt
and Turner

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the February 28, 2011, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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