

Richfield Friendship City Commission, Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Ahmad Ansari, Chair.

Those in attendance: Pixie Pixler, JoAnn Boraas, Mary Olafson, Marty Kirsch, Ahmad Ansari, Rori Coleman-Woods, James Versteeg (new member), Cynthy Mandl (RFCC Ambassador), and guests Roger Swanson, Dave Delzer (former members)

Absent: Jim Topitzhofer, Karen Schragg (staff liaisons)

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the November 16, 2017, meeting were not available for review. They will be reviewed along with March 15, 2018, meeting minutes at the April meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account balance as of 3/1/18 is \$2624.84 per Mary Olafson, Treasurer. Report was approved.

Welcome of New Member: Ahmad presented our new member, James Versee, who introduced himself to the group.

Old Business: Commission Work Plan for 2018: Fundraising is a goal for 2018. Roger presented that his church is going to partner with the Minnesota Twins to use volunteers in selling concessions, with a portion of monies collected to be given to the church. The number of volunteers and volunteer hours required far exceed RFCC's capability, and it was decided to pursue other similar venues. Pixie will research the St Paul Saints baseball team, Minnesota United soccer, and others, and report back in April. Any money earned could be used for subsidizing airline tickets for our Costa Rican colleagues, go into the RFCC general fund, or used for other purposes at the discretion of the Commission. The idea of starting a scholarship fund for students may not be possible as the Commission does not have an annual income flow. Cynthy reminded the members that there has historically been a \$100 donation to the RFCC from each trip participant visiting Costa Rica with the Commission's trip. Also, the Richfield Foundation has contributed in the past. Other possible donors could include car dealerships, banks, etc.

Inventory Reduction Status: Roger Swanson, former RFCC Chair, reported that he has the keys to the 2 metal cabinets which have been used to store RFCC items, but the cabinets are damaged and the locks are broken. He also has 2 boxes of RFCC documents including previous minutes, some historical items, and additional paper items. Ahmad will contact Jim to determine where these boxes can be stored. Marty, Cynthy and Dave have been reviewing the initial inventory of other items, done in 2009, in order to update the list. A few items displaying damage were disposed of and the vast majority of items on the initial inventory were accounted for. Cynthy and Marty, with Dave's help, will follow up with Jim on the updated list, and report on their discussion at the April meeting.

New Business: Human Rights Commission Annual Survey: Carrie Chillman from the Human Rights Commission distributed "Demographic Surveys" to all members, and collected those which were completed onsite. They will be utilized in determining whether diversification of the Commissions is progressing. Findings will be known March 27.

Election of Officers: President/Chair – Ahmad Ansari
Vice Chair – Marty Kirsch

Treasurer - Mary Olafson
Secretary – JoAnn Boraas

Historian – not filled, and most recent Historian, Dave Delzer has reached the term limit.

The officers were elected unanimously by all in attendance who were eligible to vote.

Next Meeting: May 17, 2018, 7:00 PM, Richfield Municipal Center (Heredia Room), 6700 Portland Avenue

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Ahmad Ansari, Chair.

Submitted by JoAnn Boraas, RFCC Secretary