



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall Municipal Court Room
Tuesday, September 28, 2010
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Commissioners present: Margaret Martinez, Kim Whitley, Tina Dodge Vera, Nancy Greenman, Linda Hart, Julie Jones (arrived at 7:03 p.m.)

Commissioners absent: Michael Thomson (excused)

Staff present: Wes Hare, City Manager; Marilyn Smith, Management Assistant/Public Information Officer

Others present: Frank Moore, Linn County Mental Health; Catherine Henderson, Mental Health Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kim Whitley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 24, 2010

MOTION: Nancy Greenman made a motion to approve the minutes; Linda Hart seconded. Approved 6-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

Frank Moore and Catherine Henderson discussed what Linn County Mental Health will be presenting for Mental Illness Awareness Week, which is October 3-9. Moore said that they presented the movie *The Soloist* at the Venetian Theater last year. He said that Linn County Mental health is focused on educating the public regarding mental illness. Moore said that for this year they have prepared a poster [see agenda file] and will be showing the movie *A Beautiful Mind* on October 28 at the Venetian. Moore asked the HRC if they would like to put together a proclamation [see agenda file] regarding Mental Illness Week for the City Council and if they would like to endorse this event.

Henderson said that this is part of a series of events that we are planning to help the community understand mental illness. She said that the goal is to get this information out to the public and get people talking about these types of issues. Henderson asked if the HRC members would be willing to post the posters in the community. She also said that there will be a resource table at the event and that the HRC is welcome to have information available.

Whitley asked when the next *City Bridges* comes out. Marilyn Smith said that it comes out in December. Moore said that there are 800 individuals with mental health disabilities that are living in a group home setting in Linn County. Whitley said that last year the HRC endorsed the Linn County Mental Health event. She asked the HRC members if we want to support this year's event. Margaret Martinez made a motion to endorse the poster and event; Greenman seconded it. Approved 6-0.

Whitley asked Smith if a proclamation could go to the Mayor for her signature. Smith said that if the Mayor approves the proclamation, it can be read at a City Council meeting or if they want it before October 13, she could just have the proclamation prepared without being read at a meeting. Whitley said that she would like the proclamation to be edited so that it says "Mental Illness Awareness Month."

Greenman said that this falls squarely with our mission because people with mental illness struggle to be welcomed in the community. Greenman made a motion to recommend that the proclamation go to the Mayor for approval and if approved, that it be read at the next City Council meeting; Dodge Vera seconded the motion. Approved 6-0.

Martinez asked if there are any statistics regarding how many homeless people are mentally ill. Moore said that he would estimate that around 60 percent of homeless people have a mental illness. Moore said that the number one indicator for an individual to succeed in the community is housing. Moore said that Linn County Mental Health Services' primary responsibility to the community is public safety. Whitley asked if copies of the posters would be available so that the HRC can distribute them. Moore said that he could provide these and will leave them at the P&R counter when they are ready. Henderson said that there will be a final planning meeting on October 12 for the preparation of the event on October 28 at 4:00 p.m. at Mental Health. Whitley said that she would like to meet with Linn County Mental Health again in January so that we can include something in *City Bridges* for Mental Health Awareness in May.

Setting Calendar of Events for 2011

This item was tabled until October.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Event

Whitley said that last year the HRC held a workshop at the Albany Library, which was cohosted by LBCC. The workshop focused on different generations and different cultures. Whitley said that it was an enlightening experience and it was a wonderful leadership opportunity for the students who attended.

Whitley asked if the group wanted to do a similar event again for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. The group agreed that they would like to have another event. Hare said that last year we asked Stafanie Coons, City of Albany; Larry Roper, OSU; and Toni from LBCC to lead the workshop. Hare said that they had done most of the planning for the event. Smith mentioned that Jodi Nelson had said that Larry Roper would be willing to do an event again. Hare said that Maria Delapoe was very supportive of the event and of allowing kids to attend.

Greenman asked if there was an employee within the City who might be willing to participate in this event. Hare said that he would check. Whitley said it would be nice to have Jim Bell attend next month's meeting to discuss LBCC's role in the event.

Community Conversation with South Albany High School Students

Greenman said that she met with the new principal at SAHS and she e-mailed him last week regarding the community conversation. Greenman said that she hasn't heard back from him yet, but will follow up. Greenman said that since the school schedule may be tricky, she would like to handle the process via e-mail. Hare said that this is fine. Greenman said that she will communicate with the teachers about what we have in mind. Greenman said that it would be easiest to figure out what works for the teachers and students and then see if it will work for the majority of the Commissioners and go forward from there.

UPDATES

Hispanic Advisory Council

Dodge Vera said that the group met at the Old Mill Center, which provides specialized education and therapy for children and supports families. Dodge Vera said that the Corvallis School District will be putting a levy on the ballot for November's election to renew the district's local option tax levy.

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She said that Festival Latino had about 500 people in attendance. She said that it was wet, but there was a great turnout. Dodge Vera said that there will be a retreat on Saturday and that the HAC is considering a new name. The retreat is scheduled for Saturday, October 2, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Armory Building, and she said that the HRC members are welcome to attend. Dodge Vera said that the HAC is constantly working on their role. Dodge Vera said that the HAC is appreciative that P&R supports Festival Latino and hopes to continue to receive their help with the event. Hare said that he has heard nothing but positive comments about the event and thinks that P&R will continue to help with this event.

HRC Annual Report to the City Council

Whitley said that the report was presented to the City Council and that Mayor Konopa was gracious about all of the activities the Commission has done.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, October 26, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Willamette Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Eilers

Diana Eilers
Administrative Assistant I

Reviewed by,

Wes Hare

Wes Hare
City Manager