



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall Willamette Room
Tuesday, February 24, 2009
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Commissioners present: Jeffery Evans, Marian Anderson, Jodi Nelson, Nancy Greenman, Margaret Martinez
Commissioners absent: Blanca Ruckert (excused), Kim Whitley (unexcused)
Staff present: Wes Hare, City Manager; Marilyn Smith, Management Assistant/Public Information Officer; Jim Delapoer, City Attorney
Others present: Sharon Gisler

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 27, 2009

MOTION: Nelson requested that the sentence “GAPS is having training on how to handle children with possible mental illness, but this is for staff only” be deleted from page two. Anderson moved to approve with the deletion; Martinez seconded. Approved 5-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Albany Peace Seekers

Gisler said that there are similar racial tensions in Albany that have been seen in Tangent. Gisler said that she is worried that this issue may be exacerbated because of the economic downturn. She suggested inviting folks from the Latino community to discuss what types of issues they are encountering. Gisler also said that the committee for the Latino Festival would like to have a member of the HRC be a part of their committee or cosponsor the event. Evans said that it would be best if the Latino Festival Committee came to the HRC to ask for help with their event. Evans said that the HRC needs to be efficient with time. Gisler said that the HRC seems to be doing exactly what they should be doing. She said that making a recommendation to the Council is a really big thing and she is glad that the HRS is doing this work. Greenman asked if it is possible to show our support for this event. Wes Hare said that yes, the group could write a letter to the Council in support of the event, they could attend the event, or they can help with the event. Jim Delapoer said that the HRC can make recommendations to the Council. Jim said that it is not the job of the HRC to sponsor events. Sharon has been out to Tangent twice and the owners of the restaurant feel good about the support they have received.

Business from the Public

None.

Commission Response to Community Incidents

Marilyn said that this is in response to the letter to the Commissioners in regards to meeting at the Mexican restaurant in Tangent. The other item is regarding sending letters in support/nonsupport due to incidents. Wes said that he was the one who suggested the meeting at the restaurant as a symbolic gesture, but the law prohibits a formal meeting occurring. It would need to be more of a social occasion or training. Jim said that meetings of the governing body of a public body should be held within the geographical bounds of the governing body. The HRC is a governing body and there is no question that you must meet within the geographical bounds of Albany. If you would like to support the restaurant, do so individually. Evans asked if they were to go as a group, but not conduct business or run a meeting would it be okay to do. Jim said that it is possible someone could make a complaint.

February 24, 2009

The HRC exists to recommend programs and events to the City Council. Evans asked if it would be okay for a member of the HRC to go to the restaurant and ask about the incident. Jim said that in his opinion it is not what the HRC should be doing. Jim said that if you believe there is a wrong-doing, the group should contact Marilyn and she will contact him. He will write a letter to the group/individuals and invite them to a meeting of the HRC. It is appropriate for a city official to write a letter in these types of instances. You can accomplish two things; inviting the individuals to the meeting and showing your support/nonsupport. The Council doesn't want the HRC to be an investigator of individual incidents. Making a statement as the HRC is not what the Council has charged the group to do. The HRC could recommend to the Council that they make the statement. Greenman said that going to the Council in general will cause people in protected groups to be nervous or they may not want the incident to be made public. Greenman asked if they could do fact finding. Jim said that you can but to do it as individuals or ask Marilyn or a city official to get the details of it. Evans said that they can ask APD for details of an incident. Jim said yes, as long as you are working towards an action for the Council.

Police Profiling Working Group Status Report

Next month's agenda.

ADA Transition Plan

Next month's agenda.

Annual Report Subcommittee Status Report

The subcommittee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to review the report.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

Greenman asked where the group is with the mental health issue. There were two speakers that were going to be coming to an upcoming meeting. Jodi said that she wasn't sure where we are on that piece as Kim is working on it. Jeffery said that it will be on next month's agenda. The next meeting was rescheduled to March 31 due to spring break.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, March 31, 2009, 7:00 p.m., in the Willamette Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Diana Eilers
Administrative Assistant I

Reviewed by,

Signature on file.

Wes Hare
City Manager