



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall Willamette Room
Tuesday, March 16, 2010
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Commissioners present: Jodi Nelson, Margaret Martinez, Kim Whitley, Michael Thomson, Tina Dodge Vera
Commissioners absent: Nancy Greenman
Staff present: Wes Hare, City Manager; Katie Nooshazar, Recreation Programs Manager; Anj Brown, Resource Development Coordinator
Others present: Clifford Hartman, Linn County Mental Health

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 26, 2010

MOTION: Margaret Martinez made a motion to approve the minutes; Michael Thomson seconded. Approved 5-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

Mental Health Month

Cliff Hartman said that the Linn County Mental Health Advisory Board is working on a project for mental health month in May. They are trying to reach young children with a focus on feelings and art. The Board will work in conjunction with the schools and preschools. The project may be called "Feelings on Display," and they would like the art to be displayed in the Library.

Nelson asked if there is a way for the Human Relations Commission to partner with the Board to support the event. Hartman said that would be great and that he would pass that information to the Board. Hartman said that he thinks that the Board could use some help with advertising.

Katie Nooshazar suggested contacting Debbi Richards, Recreation Programs Supervisor, as she specializes in activities for children and families and also manages the Maple Lawn Preschool. Nooshazar also suggested contacting Joy Gilliland, Recreation Coordinator, as she is the contact for the Albany Arts Commission.

Hartman said that they will mainly be working with preschool teachers to come up with art activities for children. Nelson said that she has noticed the focus over the last couple of years has changed to mental health wellness and that people seem to be more perceptive to this. Nooshazar said that the youngest and the oldest tend to be the most vulnerable population and thought that an activity involving seniors would be beneficial.

Kim Whitley asked if there are any other activities that Linn County Mental Health will be involved in this year. Hartman said that the Board is likely to host an activity for Mental Illness Awareness week in October. Last year, the Board offered a free movie at the Venetian Theater and the turnout was great. Hartman said that focusing on wellness is a great way to get the message out to the public. Nelson said that the HRC has sponsored events and had an article in *City Bridges* and would be willing to help with the Linn County events.

2010 National Night Out/Everybody's Neighborhood Day

Hare said that National Night Out is something that has been sponsored by the Police Department and Fire Department. He said that the Commission would like to sponsor the event at a park for people who don't have neighborhoods to participate in. Nooshazar asked if this event happens on a specific night. Nelson said that the event is Tuesday, August 3. Nooshazar said that there are two community picnics scheduled for June. Nooshazar said that Parks & Recreation could help with this event and asked what the HRC would need help with.

Anj Brown said that they may be able to get the hot dogs donated by Oberto. Nooshazar said that they can set up games and activities. Nooshazar said that they would like for the HRC to identify a neighborhood park for this event and help with advertising the event. She said that doing outreach in the community will help draw people to the event. Hare said that the Police Department is also publicizing this event. He said that last year there were 40 parties happening throughout Albany.

Thomson said that at the last meeting they discussed holding the event at Lexington Park. Nooshazar said that there is plenty of space at Lexington, but parking can be an issue. Nelson said that she would like to identify a park that has kids in it that have less chance of going to this type of event. Marilyn Smith suggested Sunrise Park. Nooshazar said that she wouldn't recommend Sunrise Park because they hosted a community picnic there and the turnout was low and the parking is not good. Nooshazar said that Swanson Park borders a low-income neighborhood. Brown said that they have hosted picnics at Timber-Linn Memorial Park, Gibson Hill Park, Lexington Park, Sunrise Park, and Doug Killen Friendship Park.

Martinez suggested Eleanor Hackleman Park. Nooshazar said that Hackleman is a good suggestion and that it is in a low-income neighborhood. She said that parking is pretty good in this neighborhood. Brown said that Eades Park has a brand new play structure. Hare said that Eades Park is in the lowest per-capita income area of Albany.

Brown said that canopies and tables can be set up and that they will take care of the craft activities, hot dogs, adult sports, and a sit-down activity. Tina Dodge Vera asked how much funding would be needed. Brown said they would need money for condiments, hot dog buns, and sodas. Nooshazar said that the group should expect about 200 people at about 50 cents per person. Nooshazar said that at least \$100 would be needed. Hare said that the budget is grim, but he thinks we can come up with the money for this. Martinez asked if homeless people will attend this. Nooshazar said that she thinks homeless people will attend especially if there is free food. Nooshazar said that the park would need to be reserved and asked when the group will be making a decision. Dodge Vera said that she is not familiar with Eades Park but thought it might be nice to have an event there. Nelson asked if the HRC could pass out flyers in the neighborhood to encourage people to walk to the park. Nooshazar said that this would be good to do and suggested that the flyers be in English and Spanish. Nelson asked if the HRC wants to make a decision tonight on the park. Nooshazar said that they can make the reservation once they have decided on a park.

Whitley made a motion to hold the event at Eades Park; Thomson seconded. Approved 5-0.

Wes said that he would let the Police Department know that the HRC will be hosting an event at Eades Park for National Night Out. Nelson thanked Nooshazar and Brown. Nooshazar asked what time of day the event will take place. Hare said that it will be from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Nooshazar said that they could use the trolley to bring people to the park. Smith will coordinate the advertising for this event. Nelson said that she is looking forward to this event.

HRC Annual Report Update

Whitley said that she appreciated the historical information that was put together by staff. Whitley said that cataloging all of the events the HRC has hosted or sponsored needs to be done. Whitley said that this task can easily be done by e-mail. Nelson will start out with the list and then send it to each of the HRC members so that everyone has a chance to add to the list. Whitley said that the group can work on this together and that it will probably be complete by June.

Plans for Conducting a Meeting at one of the High Schools

Nelson asked if the group wanted to talk about this without Nancy Greenman. Nelson said that once spring break hits, she thinks it will be hard to host a meeting at a high school. Martinez asked if we could do this in the fall. She said it could be next in the series of meetings we are hosting. Greenman could talk with school officials to get their opinion for when to hold this meeting. Whitley said that this is a great idea and that they will have some guaranteed participation. Nelson suggested inviting the kids who attended the Martin Luther King, Jr., event.

Dodge Vera suggested contacting the Mundos Diferentes Club at South Albany High School. She said that Mary Cuevas is the coordinator for this club. Hare suggested talking to the leadership class advisor also. Smith asked if it would be helpful to have a facilitator at this event. Whitley said that it would be great to have someone who knows how to reach out to children. Nelson suggested asking Doug Clark if he would be able to facilitate the meeting. He is a history teacher at LBCC, and he has a way with young people. Whitley said that we might be able to present this to the LBCC multicultural group and suggested talking to Jim Bell.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, April 27, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Willamette Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Diana Eilers
Administrative Assistant I

Reviewed by,

Signature on file.

Wes Hare
City Manager