



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
City Hall Willamette Room  
Tuesday, June 22, 2010  
7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Commissioners present: Margaret Martinez, Kim Whitley, Tina Dodge Vera, Michael Thomson, Nancy Greenman

Commissioners absent: None

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

Others present: Linda Hart; Jim Bell, LBCC Civic Engagement Committee Representative; Mary Zelinka, CARDV Advocacy Services Manager

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

April 27, 2010

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

**RECOGNITION OF JODI NELSON**

Whitley said that the HRC members want to recognize Jodi Nelson for all of her efforts and contributions to the HRC. Greenman said that she is hopeful that Jodi will continue to partner with the HRC. Tina Dodge Vera said that she will be missed.

**SCHEDULED BUSINESS**

**BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

LBCC Diversity and Civic Engagement Committee Representative Jim Bell

Whitley introduced Jim Bell. Bell is an LBCC Civic Engagement Committee Representative. Bell said that he is attending tonight's meeting to talk about how the HRC and Civic Engagement Committee can work together. He said that he has been on the committee for several years and this past year they have decided to open up the group to other agencies. He explained what the LBCC Civic Engagement Committee does. Dodge Vera asked who the Director of the Diversity Achievement Center is. Bell said that Toni Klunk is the Director. Bell said that the Civic Engagement Committee would like to partner with the HRC.

### CARDV Representative Discussing Sex Trafficking

Greenman introduced Mary Zelinka, who has been with CARDV for over two decades, and that she is here to discuss sex trafficking and how the City can partner with CARDV.

Mary Zelinka said that CARDV was incorporated in 1981 and that she officially joined the staff in 1990. She discussed the services CARDV provides to both Linn and Benton Counties.

Zelinka said that sex trafficking has gained a lot of attention in the last two years. Zelinka handed out a document regarding the statistics of sex trafficking [see attachment]. She said that a big problem is that prostitution is treated like a joke and that it is not taken seriously. She said that children are victims in this and as a community we can educate people. Zelinka said that it is important to train police officers, teachers, parks & recreation staff, and others about this problem. Wes Hare said that we routinely offer training for similar types of issues for certain staff including Maple Lawn Preschool staff. Hare said that P&R is likely to be open to a partnership with CARDV. He also mentioned that the Fire Safety Camps would be another place this education could be directed to.

Greenman said that she thinks most people wouldn't turn away a child in danger. Hare said that the YMCA has a mentoring program for children that need an adult figure in their life.

Zelinka said that educating people that this is something that happens in the community and what the possible signs could be is important to do. She said that kids may not speak up about a problem, but planting a seed about what could happen can make a difference. Hare asked what the statistics are for sex trafficking. Zelinka said that some studies have been done, but there are no concrete numbers regarding this. Whitley asked if there are places where it is more likely to run into people in this situation. Zelinka said that she doesn't know of any specific areas but CARDV has worked with people who have prostituted and worked in strip clubs. Whitley asked the HRC members what they want to do regarding this issue. Zelinka said that CARDV would love to be a resource for the City departments for training. Hare said that he will pass the information on to Wanda Omdahl (Fire), Ed Hodney (P&R), and Ed Gallagher (Library).

### 2010 National Night Out/Everybody's Neighborhood Day

Whitley said that we have secured the date and location for this event. Greenman said that she went to Costco and was able to get a \$25 gift card. She said that she will buy the condiments with that money. Greenman said that she gave a letter to Dari Mart and put Marilyn's contact information on it. Marilyn Smith said that she hasn't received any information regarding the request. Dodge Vera said that she contacted Albertsons, PepsiCo, and Mega Foods. She said that Mega Foods will donate drinks for up to 100 people. She said that she needs to follow up with Albertsons and PepsiCo. Whitley said that she has contacted Samaritan but hasn't heard anything yet. Bell said that LBCC should be able to help in some way.

The HRC members will all be in attendance at the event. Smith said that Lynn Hinrichs will provide a banner, a sign-up sheet, and brochures about setting up a neighborhood watch group. Smith said that APD and AFD will visit the event. She said that Lynn can also provide three t-shirts. The HRC members decided to use the shirts as prize giveaways. Smith said that she will check with P&R about what they will be handling at the event. Smith is going to talk to the volunteer coordinator and see if there will be people that will be available to place the door hangers.

### HRC Annual Report

Greenman said that she is continuing to work on this. Whitley asked her to send it to everyone by e-mail for proofing. She asked that staff include the report from the last meeting with next month's agenda.

Plans for Conducting a Meeting at One of the High Schools

Greenman said that she is continuing to work with South Albany High School to talk about civil engagement with the students. She said that the plan is to conduct an HRC meeting at the high school and ask the students questions that have to do with what it is like living in Albany as a teen. Greenman said that she did talk to a Social Studies teacher and that she will touch base with them in the fall.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, July 27, 2010, 7:00 p.m., 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