



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall Municipal Court Room
Tuesday, February 22, 2011
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Commissioners present: Nancy Greenman, Julie Jones, Kim Whitley, Linda Hart (arrived at 7:25 p.m.), Michael Thomson

Commissioners absent: Tina Dodge Vera (excused), Margaret Martinez (excused)

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

Others present: none

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kim Whitley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 25, 2011

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

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

Discussing Reaction to LBCC's Showing of the New Movie *Out in the Silence*

Whitley said that she contacted Toni Klohk, and she was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Whitley will follow up on this item.

Survey for HRC Tabling at Events

Greenman discussed the survey that will be handed out at events. [Survey attached] She suggested having a box that folks can put their completed survey into. Whitley suggested changing the question "Have you attended a community event in Albany in the past year?" to "Have you attended other events in Albany this year?" The Commission agreed this would be an appropriate change. Greenman said that she doesn't know if she still has the survey in Spanish and will redo it if necessary.

Smith said that there aren't any Parks & Recreation community picnics this year. She said that River Rhythms, Mondays at Monteith, NW Art and Air Festival, and Festival Latinos would all be good events to distribute the survey. Smith mentioned that the Hispanic Advisory Commission (HAC) is the primary organizer of Festival Latinos.

Greenman asked if there is a charge for a booth. Hare said that there is no charge. Greenman suggested wearing badges during the events. Whitley said that the plan is to attend all the events Smith had mentioned; the Commission agreed. Greenman suggested preparing a calendar of the different events and deciding on who will be attending which so they have enough staffing at each event. Smith said that one of the River Rhythms concerts will be held at the Linn County Fairgrounds.

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Greenman asked if there is an update regarding the CSC student employees. Smith said that she talked to Katie Nooshazar, Recreation Programs Manager, and she said that it would be difficult to talk to the kids while they are working. She suggested contacting the person who oversees the program. She said that Nooshazar suggested hosting a coffee at the Senior Center as they would have good input. She also suggested visiting the soup kitchen and PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

Greenman asked how we can participate in these events while avoiding having a public meeting. Hare said that you don't have to have a formal meeting if you are doing these activities; it just means that the activity or event needs to be publicized so the public has notice.

Smith said that there is a Homeless Resource Fair on Thursday, May 12, and this would be a great way to reach that population. Whitley said that she will add that event to the list of venues.

Reaching Out to Other Underrepresented Groups

Smith suggested contacting folks at the Senior Center, soup kitchen, PFLAG, and other underrepresented organizations. Whitley wondered if we should get a list of organizations. Smith said that she will check with Nooshazar. Greenman asked if Nooshazar has a list of these types of organizations. Greenman said she sees this as a way to invite other organizations to our meetings and talk about their experiences in the community.

Human Relations Commission Community Award

Thomson said that his idea is to create an award for folks that are doing work that relates to our mission. He said that it is a way to acknowledge what people in our community are doing. Thomson suggested having a presentation and award by the City Council to acknowledge the award recipient. He said that the recipient can be an individual or an organization.

Whitley asked if the City does any awards like this. Smith said that the HEART Board presents two awards to people or organizations who have worked with the homeless population. Whitley asked how a person or organization gets nominated. Smith said that they are nominated by the community or the board. Greenman suggested preparing criteria for the award. Whitley said that Samaritan Health Plans gives out an award called "Senior for Life." She will bring the criteria information for that award to help us come up with criteria.

Thomson suggested that they could name the award after Gene Belhumeur, former Mayor of Albany. Hare said that it would be good to check with the City Council regarding the name of the award. Smith suggested checking with Gene's widow as well. The HRC decided to work on the criteria first before deciding on a name for the award.

Hispanic Advisory Council

Hare suggested coming up with talking points before meeting with the HAC. He said that it would be good to have Dodge Vera's perspective about what should be discussed. He said that it would be good to find out what the HAC members think the City should or could be doing to be an inclusive community.

2011 Calendar of Events

There are no other events to add at this time.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

Whitley said that March 22 is during spring break and that she will be gone. The HRC agreed to change the meeting date to Tuesday, March 29.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Diana Eilers
Administrative Assistant I

Reviewed by,

Signature on file.

Wes Hare
City Manager