



IHUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall Municipal Court Room
Tuesday, March 29, 2011
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Commissioners present: Nancy Greenman, Julie Jones, Kim Whitley, Linda Hart, Michael Thomson, Margaret Martinez, Tina Dodge Vera

Commissioners absent: none

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

Others present: Sue McGuire-Thompson, Operations Manager, Community Services Consortium

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 22, 2011

MOTION: Linda Hart made a motion to approve the minutes; Nancy Greenman seconded. Approved 7-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

Human Relations Commission Community Award

Michael Thomson said that the parameters of the award need to be decided on. He said that once that happens it can be advertised and published on the City's website. Whitley said that one of the tasks that needs to be handled is asking the City Council if they are okay with naming the award after Gene Belhumeur. She said that someone also needs to check with Gene's widow, Frances Belhumeur. Thomson said that he will check with Frances. Hare said that staff will handle checking with City Council.

Whitley said that she gathered the requirements for the Samaritan Senior All-Star Award. She said that there are a few requirements: the nominee must be over 65 years old, volunteer in the community, and have an active lifestyle.

Thomson suggested keeping the criteria minimal so that several nominations will be received. Whitley said that there will need to be a plan for advertising. Greenman said that the criteria could mirror the HRC mission statement, "promoting harmonious relations among the citizens of Albany." Whitley asked if there should be restrictions, such as age, on this award. Thomson said that the recipient needs to be living or working in the Albany community.

Greenman asked how the nominations can be reviewed in a respectful manner since we are a public commission. Smith suggested having a subcommittee review the nominations. The HRC agreed to form a subcommittee. Linda Hart asked if a staff recommendation or resolution is needed. Hare said that this doesn't require a resolution. Greenman asked if the City Council should present the award or if the HRC should. Smith suggested having it presented by the HRC at a City Council meeting. Smith said that we can advertise this in the City Newsletter, Twitter, and Facebook. The subcommittee will consist of Thomson, and he will recruit others for this subcommittee.

Discussing Conversation with Summer Youth Workers

Sue McGuire-Thompson, Operations Manager, Community Services Consortium (CSC), works with youth groups. She said that there are 150 different grants that come to the CSC and that two summers ago, CSC put 300 youth to work in the community thanks to a grant. She said that they placed 35 kids with Parks & Recreation which included office work, maintenance work, P&R events, etc. She said that the kids have come back and asked to work for the City of Albany again.

McGuire-Thompson said that the kids are at risk including: teen parents, unemployed, and not doing well in high school. She discussed the different types of programs offered to youth through CSC.

Greenman asked if she thought they could meet with some of the students. McGuire-Thompson said that an informal meeting would be good because some of the kids are nervous. She said that the biggest issue would be the kids' school schedules. Greenman said that the HRC has wanted to meet with high school kids, but it hasn't worked out yet.

Dodge Vera asked how kids are referred to the program. McGuire-Thompson said that referrals come from the schools, Department of Human Services, Parks & Recreation, the Boys & Girls Club, and the youth themselves. The only reason that they don't accept some kids is because they don't show up for the programs or they don't meet federal guidelines. Greenman said that the HRC would like to ask the kids if they think Albany is a welcoming place for youth. McGuire-Thompson suggested asking "What services do you use at the City?", and "What would you like to see?" Greenman would like to ask how the kids get around the city.

Whitley asked if the HRC is interested in hosting this meeting. The members agreed. Greenman said that this should be an informal meeting. Hare suggested hosting a luncheon meeting here at City Hall. McGuire-Thompson said that one group of kids can meet at lunch and another group of kids can meet at 3:30 p.m. Greenman asked if an afternoon meeting would work for the HRC. Smith said that a focus group would be 6-12 people. Greenman said that it would be an informal meeting and we would still have minutes taken during the meeting.

Whitley asked if this will replace the regular HRC meeting. Greenman said that we could have regular business at the end of the meeting and the kids could stay or leave for that portion of the meeting. Staff will take care of the pizza and drinks. The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28, at 3:30 at CSC in Two Rivers Market in the Jobs Corps Room.

Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC)

Dodge Vera said that the Oregon Education Department is creating a searchable database regarding school statistics of discipline and race. She said that there is an 11 percent Latino population in Albany. Dodge Vera asked HRC members if they could be greeters at the Festival Latinos. She said that the Lyon's Club will have a mobile health screening unit at Festival Latinos. Festival Latinos is scheduled for Saturday, September 17, noon - 4:00 p.m.

Whitley said that it might be beneficial joining the HAC and have our meeting together to build our relationships. Dodge Vera said that the next HAC meeting in Albany is scheduled for July and are typically from 3-5:00 p.m. Whitley suggested meeting during their regular meeting time as an act of support. The meeting is planned for Tuesday, July 26 at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Municipal Court Room.

2011 Calendar of Events

Whitley said that we should start working on Mental Health Month. Smith said that Frank Moore is working with P&R staff regarding the art show to be held at the Main Library. Smith said that she will get the details of the art show.

Smith said that the Homeless Resource Fair is May 12 from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club. Greenman, Whitley, and Dodge Vera will staff a booth at the Fair and will give out 50 bags of daily living kits. Whitley asked if staff could provide the banner. Smith said that she would take care of the banner. Smith estimated that 150 people will attend.

Potential Community Partners

Smith said that she will have the list at the next meeting.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

High School Scholarship Event

Greenman said that the Albany Peace Seekers are in their third year of sponsoring the Peace Award Scholarship. She said that a student from South and West Albany High Schools will receive a \$500 scholarship award. The school community is encouraged to nominate students who work to achieve peaceful conflict resolutions. Greenman invited the HRC members to attend the award ceremony at the Main Library on Tuesday, May 3, 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, April 28, 2011, at 3:30 p.m. (CSC, Jobs Corps Meeting Room, upstairs in Two Rivers Market)

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