



## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)

City Hall, Willamette Room

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

### MINUTES

Commissioners present: Leonor Rodriguez, Tina Dodge Vera, Linda Hart, Nancy Greenman, Michael Thomson (arrived at 7:07 p.m.)

Commissioners absent: Kim Whitley (excused), Julie Jones (excused)

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

Others present: Jim Clausen

#### CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Nancy Greenman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 10, 2012

**MOTION:** Linda Hart made a motion to approve the minutes; Tina Dodge Vera seconded. Approved 4-0.

#### SCHEDULED BUSINESS

#### BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

#### Joint Meeting with Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC)

Greenman said that the joint meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2012. Greenman reminded the group that last year both groups met together in the afternoon from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the joint meeting and then separated for their own group's meetings. Greenman noted that if done that way again, two of the commission members, Tina Dodge Vera and Leonor Rodriguez, would need to leave for the HAC meeting when the groups separate as they are both members of that Council. Greenman asked the group if they wanted to do a joint meeting again this year. Linda Hart said that having the joint meeting was very beneficial. Dodge Vera shared that the HAC meetings alternate between Linn and Benton Counties and they would be meeting in Benton County in July. She suggested another option of having the HAC members attend the HRC evening meeting. Greenman suggested that the meeting be in August when the HAC would be meeting in Linn County. Greenman said that it would be nice to have the whole HAC group attend. Greenman noted that, if held in August, the meeting would be right before Labor Day and many members could be out of town. Rodriguez said that August would work for her and falls right before Festival Latino. Hart said that it would be difficult for her to attend a meeting on August 28. Dodge Vera suggested meeting in October. Greenman said that it would be nice to meet before Festival Latino. Thomson said that August or October would work for him. Greenman will send out an e-mail to both groups with all options to find a date that works best for all.

#### National Night Out Event

Greenman shared background information from previous years. She said that two years ago the HRC hosted a National Night Out event at Hackleman Park. With a lot of hard work and planning, they obtained donations of food, hosted a representative from Target and an APD police officer and police dog, and had P&R provide activities. People from the neighborhood and those at the nearby skate park attended. Greenman said that the following year the group took it upon themselves to independently visit different neighborhood events for National Night Out. Hart helped host her own neighborhood event.

Greenman asked the group if this year they wanted to host an event, intentionally plan to visit other events, or do something else. The group agreed that they did not want to organize or host an event. Greenman asked Smith if there were other events the group could be a part of. Smith said the deadline for people to register their neighborhood event is June 25; so by the June 26 meeting, she would have information on the different events. Greenman asked that this item be added to the June 26 agenda. She also asked the group to be thinking of ways in which they could participate in the scheduled events.

Dodge Vera said that she is planning an event in her neighborhood and encouraged HRC members to join if they would like to.

## DEBRIEFS

### HEART to Heart Resource Fair

Thomson said that he attended with the St. Vincent DePaul group and that they did not give out as many vouchers as the year before, although the attendance was comparable. Smith said that about 120 people attended. Thomson said he and his co-volunteer were impressed overall by the event. He said that it was a great thing for the City to be involved in.

Smith reported that their efforts to reach the Spanish speakers were very successful. The posters that Dodge Vera translated into Spanish were widely distributed by the HRC. Smith said that she was getting calls from Albany and Jefferson Head Start a couple days prior to the event saying that they were notifying their families. Smith said that there were a lot of young to middle age Hispanic women with their children, which they hadn't seen previously. Dodge Vera was grateful that the Latino community was represented well at this event. She said that the posters were nice; but, when proof reading, she missed some errors and that it would have been nice to have an extra pair of eyes. She also said that the Fair had a variety of services with more giveaways than before. Greenman expressed her appreciation to everyone involved.

Smith reported that more agencies participated including a dental service. The dental clinic saw 14 patients. Greenman asked how people knew the free dental service was available. Smith said that the shelters had been notified ahead of time.

Smith said that the Boys and Girls Club was a "free zone" during the event. She said that registered sex offenders were able to attend the event since it was a "free zone". Smith said that they felt this helped boost attendance.

### Presentation of Annual Report for 2010/2011 to City Council

Hart said that Kim Whitley did a great job giving the presentation. She said that Hare had some very nice things to say on behalf of himself and Smith as to what a delightful group the HRC is to work with and what good work the group is doing. She said that the Council had no questions and that they accepted the report.

## UPDATES

### Hosting a Booth at the July 4 River Rhythms Concert

Greenman said that at the last meeting the group picked July 4 to host a booth. She said that there was discussion about how hosting more than one concert was redundant. Hart said that she agreed because you get a lot of the same people every time. Smith shared with the group that P&R is looking for volunteers at the concerts to help with preconcert art, be services greeters or firework monitors, and to pass the donation baskets. Smith said that she thought the greeter role would be great for the Commission. Greenman said that she would not be able to be there on July 4. She asked the group who would be available. Hart said she plans to go. Rodriguez and Dodge Vera said they would not be able to. Greenman said that since she cannot be a greeter at the July 4 concert, she will volunteer at another one and encouraged the group to do the same. Dodge Vera asked if there is an age requirement for volunteers. Wes Hare said that he didn't think so. Greenman will contact the volunteer coordinator from the P&R Department, Rose Lacey.

### Mental Health Awareness

Smith reported that the posters from the Linn County Mental Health and Advisory Board were received and posted. Hare said that he was writing a story concerning mental health awareness for his weekly column. He said that mental illness is an issue that can affect all of us. Greenman asked if any events were scheduled. Dodge Vera said that there was a Live Well, Age Well Expo event at the Linn County Fairgrounds.

### Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC)

Dodge Vera said that the HAC met at the South Albany High School with the Dare to Dream Club. They discussed plans for Festival Latino logistics, such as fund raising and food. Rodriguez said that there would be a poster for the Festival. Dodge Vera said the Dare to Dream Club is going to help with the graphic design for the poster.

Hare said that the Septimo de Mayo event was wonderful and asked if the HAC had helped with it. Rodriguez said that they were invited to attend but didn't plan it. Hare expressed his gratitude to Rodriguez for cooking for the event. He said that the enchiladas were really good. Rodriguez said that Joy Gilliland is hoping to make it an annual event since it was so successful.

Greenman asked Dodge Vera and Rodriguez if the Council wanted the HRC to be greeters at the festival again or if there were other roles they could perform. Dodge Vera said that the Council was counting on the HRC to be greeters. She also suggested that the group perform their survey in Spanish at the Festival. Greenman said that last year's configuration was nice and that the location for the greeters was beneficial. Greenman asked the group to be considering their commitment to this event before the July meeting.

Rodriguez asked what the survey entailed. Dodge Vera explained that the survey asked questions about how welcoming Albany is. Greenman said that the group has used the survey at the HEART to Heart Resource Fair, River Rhythms, Albany Farmers Market, and various community meetings. She said that they have mainly given the surveys at welcoming events and because of that they generally have received positive feedback. Hare said that our community surveys usually come out generally positive as well. Dodge Vera said that HAC can review the survey and possibly add a question about discrimination. Greenman said that she would like to see questions that would solicit more than just yes or no answers.

Rodriguez said that she has received questions from her clients in regards to living conditions in apartments. She said that that they had contacted Legal Aid, but were turned down because of their residency status. Rodriguez asked if there were any tenant rights for a person if they are not a legal resident. Dodge Vera said that Legal Aid's inability to help may be due to the fact that they are federally funded and those funds carry restrictions. Hare suggested that they contact the Building Code Department at City Hall. He explained that the department is responsible for ensuring that buildings meet certain codes for safety. He also said that the department deals with the safety of the building and not who the tenant is, so the person's residency status would have no bearing. Smith suggested that they could contact Love, Inc. She said that they will help with household repairs such as fixing clogged sinks or toilets. She also suggested a mediation service called Neighbor-2-Neighbor. Hare suggested the United Way with their 211 Call Center as an option. He said that it was set up for just this kind of thing with the ability to direct people to the appropriate services. Smith shared that when you call 211, you will talk to a real person; no phone tree.

### Calendar of Events: 2012

Greenman said that the joint meeting with the HAC on July 24 is only penciled in for now. She asked if there was anything to add to the calendar. Smith brought up an event for November: the Annual Community Summit on Homelessness. The summit is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at City Hall. She said that the focus this year is on the update for the ten-year plan. Greenman said to add this to the next agenda to discuss if it is something the group wants to participate in.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, June 26, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Signature on file*

Gina Burrese  
Administrative Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

*Signature on file*

Diana Eilers  
Administrative Assistant I

Reviewed by,

*Signature on file*

Wes Hare  
City Manager