



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)

City Hall, Municipal Court Room

Tuesday, October 30, 2012

MINUTES

Commissioners present: Linda Hart, Nancy Greenman, Michael Thomson, Tina Dodge Vera, Kim Whitley, Leonor Rodriguez, and Javier Cervantes

Commissioners absent: None

Staff present: Marilyn Smith, Public Information Officer/Management Assistant

Others present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kim Whitley called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 25, 2012

MOTION: Javier Cervantes made a motion to approve the minutes; Leonor Rodriguez seconded. Approved 7-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

Preparation for Second Human Relations Award Competition

Whitley noted that she made the Hispanic Advisory Council aware of the HRC award at the joint meeting with them preceding this meeting. Rodriguez asked about the application process. The process was explained. Nancy Greenman noted that the commission members themselves don't nominate a candidate but encourage others to. Michael Thomson suggested that it be presented to the community in November. It was encouraged for the commission members to get the word out to different groups that they are in contact with. It was decided that Marilyn Smith will e-mail a draft news release to the group. Thomson will have final approval. The group agreed that they would receive applications in November, make a decision in December, and present the award at the January 23, 2013, City Council meeting. Thomson, Hart, and Rodriguez volunteered to be on the selection committee. Thomson will be in charge of researching the purchase of an actual award. Hart asked if it would be a problem presenting the award at the January City Council meeting with this being an election year. Smith replied that it shouldn't be a problem. Whitley instructed that an e-mail be sent out to the group when the committee makes their selection. Cervantes asked if the e-mail could include some simple bullet points stating the reasoning behind the selection. The group agreed that that was a good idea. Dodge Vera asked if the award nomination form was available in Spanish. Smith told her that that could be done.

Preparation of 2012 HRC Annual Report

Greeman said she could draft a chronological list of this year's activities for the group to review.

City Hall Open House – Monday, December 3; 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Smith reported that last year's open house focused on awards that the City had received for the year. She went on to say that this year's focus would be on the boards and commissions for the City. The idea is for as many board and commission members to attend as possible. There will be hors d'oeuvres and live music. The open house will take place after the City Council Work Session.

Dodge Vera asked if the board and commission applications came in a Spanish-language version for anyone in the Latino community that would want to apply for a position. Smith answered that they didn't, but it could be done. Whitley said that it would be nice to have a translator at the event. Smith said a translator could be arranged for the event. Dodge Vera asked if translators were available at the board and commission meetings. Smith replied that if it was needed, that could be arranged, too. Cervantes asked about name badges, and Smith said she would order one for him.

UPDATES

Community Meal/Mental Illness Awareness Event

Greenman reported that the event was lovely. She said that the room at the First Christian Church remained full throughout the evening as people came and went. It appeared that people were enjoying themselves as they ate and visited. Approximately every 15 minutes, someone from the Mental Health Advisory Board or a representative from Healthy Kids would make an announcement about it being Mental Illness Awareness Week and that there was helpful materials and information provided in the adjoining room. Greenman reported that that the flow of people between eating, visiting, and viewing information was nice. She also said that people were pleased that there was a representative from the HRC at the meal. Greenman said that she thought this was a good idea to have gone to the people with a low-key presence. Whitley commented that the Mental Health Advisory Board had said they were pleased with the event and thought that it was a success. The group decided to have the event added to the calendar in October for next year.

Annual Summit on Homelessness (Wednesday, November 7; 9:00 a.m.-noon, City Hall)

Smith reported that due to room scheduling problems, the event was moved from City Hall to Central Willamette Community Credit Union headquarters across from LBCC. Smith gave background history for the summit and how it has occurred every year since 2006. The summit has fostered the area organizations to collaborate so services are not left out or duplicated. This year a panel discussion will focus on gaps in services currently available to homeless and low-income residents. Kelley Kaiser, chief executive officer of Samaritan Health Plans, is the keynote speaker. Cervantes asked if there was registration for the event. Smith said that registration was not required, but an RSVP would be nice so they know how many chairs to set up. Smith is the contact person. Whitley invited the group to attend the summit. Cervantes asked if this was the only meeting of its kind. Smith responded that there is a subgroup called HEART that meets the second Tuesday of each month and then there are informal meetings on the last Friday of the month.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Cervantes suggested a workshop sponsored by the Employers Partnership for Diversity December 7, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to noon, at LBCC in the Fireside Room. Cervantes said he would e-mail the group with the information.

Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC)

None

Calendar of Events: 2012

Greenman brought up the Martin Luther King, Jr. event. She asked Cervantes what LBCC is doing for the holiday. Cervantes said they are meeting this Thursday and that he will report to the group through e-mail what they are planning. Whitley requested that this be added to the next agenda.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

Greenman expressed approval of the field trip idea that was suggested at last month's meeting. There was discussion of what the group was allowed to do as a commission. Smith explained the process. Cervantes proposed going to a cultural center such as the one in Woodburn. Dodge Vera suggested the Literacy Center in Corvallis. Greenman urged the group to bring specific ideas of trips the group could take and a purpose or objective of the trip to the next meeting for discussion. Cervantes suggested having one of the regular HRC meetings at the LBCC Diversity center and have the president come to the meeting. Whitley liked the idea and suggested doing that in January in connection with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. The group agreed. Whitley requested that Smith broadcast the meeting for extra exposure.

Dodge Vera asked about her term expiring and the process to reapply. Smith explained the process.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, November 27, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Whitley adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Gina Burrese
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Wes Hare
City Manager