



APPROVED: July 23, 2013

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)
City Hall, Willamette Room
Tuesday, June 25, 2013
MINUTES

Commissioners present: Michael Thomson, Jay Sluiter, Kim Whitley, and Tina Dodge Vera (arrived at 7:08 p.m.)

Commissioners absent: Nancy Greenman (excused), Javier Cervantes (excused), Leonor Rodriguez (unexcused)

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

Others present: Greg Roe, United Way of Linn County Executive Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kim Whitley called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 28, 2013

MOTION: Michael Thomson made a motion to approve the minutes; Jay Sluiter seconded. Approved 4-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

Human Relations Award (HRA)

Marilyn Smith had given Greg Roe of the United Way the HRA application forms to look over ahead of time. Roe introduced himself to the group. Kim Whitley related to Roe how Mayor Sharon Konopa expressed a need for nonprofits to be recognized. Whitley explained to Roe that the group does not want to, in any way, compete with the award the Chamber gives or infringe on anything the United Way does. Roe liked the idea of awarding nonprofit organizations for their work in the community. Whitley asked Roe if the group could collaborate with the United Way to help publicize the award. Roe noted his approval and said that the United Way has several worthy organizations that they work with on a consistent basis.

Roe asked what the time line was for the group's process. Michael Thomson answered that submission of applications begins in October with the award being presented in January. Roe said if the group provided him with the applications, he would have no problem getting them out.

Roe inquired if organizations could nominate themselves and was told by the group that they could. He also asked if the organization had to be located in Albany. Thomson explained that the organization does not have to be located here, but it needs to have been of service to this community.

Roe related that he could post information about the award on the United Way's website. He said that he can also pass the information on to Deb Powell, president of Love INC, to include the many faith-based organizations. The group approved of this.

Whitley explained to Roe the process of how the award has been presented in the past to individuals. Roe volunteered to promote the individual nominations as well. The group expressed their appreciation of the amount of exposure this could bring. Whitley thanked Roe for his time and willingness to help.

Participation at River Rhythms Concerts (Thursdays, July 4 and August 1)

Thomson informed the group that, because of extenuating circumstances, he cannot participate at the July 4 concert. Whitley e-mailed Nancy Greenman to inform her of Thomson's withdrawal from the event and ask if she would still be interested in participating on her own.

The group still plans on greeting at the August 1 concert.

Participation at National Night Out (Tuesday, August 6)

Whitley summarized how the group has participated in the past by either hosting their own event or visiting other neighborhood events. Jay Sluiter liked the idea of attending his own neighborhood event. Thomson shared that he and his wife talked about hosting one in their own neighborhood.

Smith related that the Albany Police Department is asking for neighborhoods to sign up now. Whitley requested that Smith supply the group with the list of participating neighborhoods at the next meeting so the group could discuss options.

Participation at Northwest Art & Air Festival (August 23-25)

Whitley asked the group for any thoughts on participating. Sluiter remarked that this is the single biggest event for Albany. Smith shared that the Saturday night concert is expected to be the biggest ever and the Parks & Recreation Department is going to need extra help. She said that there are many volunteer opportunities available. Whitley asked Smith if she would invite the volunteer coordinator from the Parks & Recreation Department to the next meeting to describe what is available. Smith agreed to do that. Whitley remarked that the group might need t-shirts instead of just name tags to be more identifiable at the event.

Joint Meeting Date with Hispanic Advisory Council

Tina Dodge Vera noted that the meeting last year was in October. She said that she is sure the HAC would love to meet with the HRC again. Dodge Vera asked the group if they liked the set up from last year. The group wanted to know, if they followed the same set up, what dates would be involved. The HRC would normally be meeting on October 22 and the HAC would be on October 29. Whitley requested that Dodge Vera check with the HAC to see if October would work with them and what date they preferred.

HEART to Heart Resource Fair Survey Results

Smith relayed that the suggestions discussed at the last meeting were really good. Whitley requested that the group follow up with this next month when Greenman would be back. The group agreed.

UPDATES

Visit to Cornelius — Centro Cultural

Javier Cervantes was not here to give a report. Whitley requested that it be added to the next agenda.

Essay Activities – 4th and/or 5th Graders

Since Wes Hare was absent, Smith reported on his meeting with school Superintendent Maria Delapoer regarding the essay activity. Delapoer approved of the activity and suggested having it in May since it would coordinate well with another activity the district already has established. She will inform the teachers of the activity when they return in September.

Whitley requested that this event be updated again in August.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

None

Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC)

Dodge Vera reported that the HAC met with Benton County Commissioner Annabelle Jaramillo. They had an informative visit where they learned about her background and how she got into government work. Dodge Vera shared that English as a Second Language classes are continuing at LBCC through a private contribution. The group was happy to hear this. The HAC is planning for Festival Latino in September.

Smith asked the group if they knew that the new Police Chief spoke Spanish. The group was pleased and anxious to meet him. Dodge Vera asked if the chief could be invited to one of HRC meetings. Smith volunteered to do that. Whitley requested that he be invited to the August meeting since they planned on having the Parks & Recreation Department at the July meeting. The group concurred.

Calendar of Events: 2013

None

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, July 23, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Whitley adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Gina Burrese
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Wes Hare
City Manager