



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)

City Hall, Municipal Court Room

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

MINUTES

Commissioners present: Kim Whitley, Tina Dodge Vera, Javier Cervantes, Nancy Greenman, and Rob Duncan

Commissioners absent: Jay Sluiter (excused), Michael Thomson (excused)

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

Others present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kim Whitley called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 24, 2013

Nancy Greenman noted a correction to the minutes: The year of the annual report should be 2013, not 2012. Tina Dodge Vera also noted a correction: Rosa Plasencia's last name was misspelled.

Dodge Vera requested that Joy Gilliland of the P&R Department be recognized along with Plasencia and Iris Carasco for her efforts with Festival Latino.

MOTION: Greenman made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Tina Dodge Vera seconded. Approved 5-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

January 2014 event: Martin Luther King, Jr., event

Whitley conveyed that she envisions a reading of the Letter from Birmingham Jail from the plaza steps at City Hall as being powerful. Javier Cervantes agreed. He said that it was great reading the letter at LBCC last year but thinks it would be even better reading it from City Hall. The group decided to host the event on Wednesday, January 15, 2014, in honor of King's birthday. Whitley and Cervantes were appointed to a subcommittee that will plan the details of the event and report back to the group at the next meeting. The group would like to invite the Linn County Commissioners to attend the event.

October 2014 event: Mental Illness Awareness Week

Whitley expressed her desire to invite Frank Moore, Clifford Hartman, and the Mental Health Advisory Board to the next meeting. She said that they could focus on plans for Mental Health Awareness Month in May. The group approved. Marilyn Smith will extend the invitation to those at the County.

DEBRIEFS

Visit to Cornelius – Centro Cultural

Cervantes gave his report at the previous joint meeting with the HAC.

Joint meeting with HAC

There was no discussion regarding the joint meeting at this time.

UPDATES

Essay activities – 4th and/or 5th graders

The group decided to postpone this discussion for the next meeting since Wes Hare was not able to connect with School Superintendent Maria Delapoer this month prior to the meeting.

Other volunteer opportunities

Rob Duncan asked the group if they were familiar with the school program for migrants. He explained how the program taught everything from the individual's rights to dietary issues. Dodge Vera noted that Sunrise School has a leadership program supporting the district's parents by providing meals and childcare. She said that the program also encourages physical activity for families. This was not the program that Duncan was referring to. He will look into it and get back to the group.

Greenman shared her alarm over the results of a report released on language readiness and the gap in regards to preschool. Dodge Vera said that finding solutions to the achievement gap is a priority of the Health Equity Alliance. She shared that they are working with the school district to get more parents involved with finding a solution. Dodge Vera suggested having Maria Delapoer or Frank Caropelo come explain the content of the report card the school district recently received. Greenman agreed. She said that, in thinking of the group's mission, they should be considering what their role could be in assuring the success of all children. Dodge Vera said there should be something they could do to support them.

Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC)

Since the group had just met with the Council, there was no update at this time.

Calendar of Events: 2013

None.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

Annual Summit on Homelessness (Wednesday, November 6)

Greenman asked Smith if the summit could use the HRC members as volunteers. Smith answered that the summit was looking for more community involvement and would welcome the support of the Commission. The summit's goal is to increase public awareness of the services available and the HRC could have a role in that. Smith reported that, from a survey recently conducted of the local homeless population, they have learned that people in need are not aware of the basic services that are available to them. At the summit they want to figure out how they can connect better with the people they serve. She said that they are hoping that members of the community will attend the summit so that they can help spread the word on what services are available.

Whitley asked Smith how many homeless students there are in the school system. Smith answered that there are approximately 300 area students that are homeless. Hare shared that the definition of homeless includes more than those without a home. Some of these children live with friends or relatives, but it is not a consistent living situation. Whitley asked if demographics of that group were available. Smith responded that there were and agreed to obtain those statistics for the group.

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There is an act that was established to help with homeless students called the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The Greater Albany Public School District has a liaison that works under the Act. Whitley suggested inviting the liaison to one of their meetings. Duncan expressed his concern over the lack of a youth shelter in the area. Smith mentioned that Albany has a youth drop-in center and volunteered to contact both Tara Dixson with the McKinney-Vento Act program from the school district and Monica Lawrence of the Jackson Street Youth Shelter to see if they would be willing to attend a future meeting. The group approved.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

Whitley had to leave the meeting a few minutes before adjournment. As Vice Chair, Greenman adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Signature on file

Gina Burrese
Administrative Assistant

Wes Hare
City Manager