



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

City Hall, Willamette Room
Tuesday, November 26, 2013
7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

➤ October 22, 2013, joint meeting with HAC. [Pages 2-5]

Action: _____

➤ October 22, 2013. [Pages 6-8]

Action: _____

4. SCHEDULED BUSINESS

a. Business from the Public

b. Mental Health Month – May 2014. [Verbal] (Frank Moore/Clifford Hartman/Dick Knowles/Tony Howell)

- Briefing on pilot project in Linn County focusing on mental health literacy in the community.

Action: _____

c. Statistics/demographics of the student homeless in Albany’s school system. [Verbal] (Tara Dixson/Monica Lorence)

Action: _____

d. Updates

1) Human Relations Award. [Verbal] (Whitley/Thomson)

Action: _____

2) January 2014 event: Martin Luther King, Jr. event. [Verbal] (Whitley/Cervantes)

Action: _____

3) Essay activities – 4th and/or 5th graders. [Verbal] (Hare)

Action: _____

4) Other volunteer opportunities. [Verbal] (Whitley)

Action: _____

5) Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC). [Verbal] (Dodge Vera)

Action: _____

6) Calendar of Events: 2013 and 2014. [Pages 9-10] (Whitley)

Action: _____

5. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

6. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, January 28, 2014

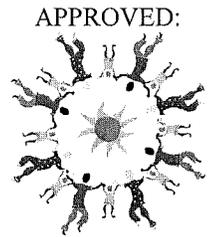
7. ADJOURNMENT

City of Albany Web site: www.cityofalbany.net

The location of the meeting/hearing is accessible to the disabled. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, advance notice is requested by notifying the City Manager’s Office at 541-917-7508, 541-704-2307, or 541-917-7519.



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION & HISPANIC ADVISORY COUNCIL
City Hall, Municipal Court Room
Tuesday, October 22, 2013
3:00 p.m.



MINUTES

Human Relations Commissioners present: Kim Whitley, Nancy Greenman, Tina Dodge Vera, and Javier Cervantes
Human Relations Commissioners absent: Michael Thomson (excused), Jay Sluiter (excused), and Rob Duncan (excused)
Hispanic Advisory Councilors present: Mary Mayfield, Tammy Skubinna, Heather Medina Saucedo, Aaron Clingerman, Javier Cervantes; and Tina Dodge Vera
Hispanic Advisory Councilors absent: Leonor Rodriguez
Staff present: Wes Hare, City Manager; Marilyn Smith, Management Assistant/Public Information Officer
Others present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Human Relations Commission (HRC) Chair Kim Whitley called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Introductions

Whitley welcomed the Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC) to this joint meeting with the HRC, announcing that it was the third year for the two groups to meet together. The HAC and HRC members introduced themselves.

Human Relations Award

Whitley informed the group that Michael Thomson was the one overseeing the implementation of the award but he was absent. She announced that this would be the third year for the award. Whitley related that it was the HRC's desire for the HAC to be aware of this opportunity so that they can help spread the word to the Hispanic community. Whitley described the new process for the award, in that there are now two categories that receive an award: an individual and a nonprofit organization. Greenman informed the group that the applications could be obtained on-line through the City of Albany's website. The applications are available in both English and Spanish.

Greenman urged the group to be thinking of nominations and suggested nominating a key person involved in putting on the Festival Latino event. Tammy Skubinna approved of the suggestion, saying that she would want to nominate Dodge Vera for all the work that she does. Greenman commended the nomination but explained that since Dodge Vera is part of the HRC, she would have to be excluded as a nominee. Skubinna asked when the deadline was for submitting the applications. Greenman responded that the last day to turn them in was November 29. She read the criteria for a nomination, and Dodge Vera shared the names of the last two award winners. Skubinna was pleased to learn that organizations could be nominated as well.

Visit to Cornelius – Centro Cultural (PowerPoint Presentation)

Javier Cervantes, Nancy Greenman, and Tina Dodge Vera visited the center yesterday. Whitley stated the purpose of the visit in that the group wanted to learn why and how this center became successful and to gather inspiration that would stimulate thought for something similar in Albany. The group is interested in discovering where other communities are with their support services. Cervantes explained that Cornelius' center is an exemplary model to study. Despite their small population, they are hugely diverse. Cervantes once lived there and has family that still does, so he stays apprised of the center's progress. The center is a nonprofit organization that receives funding through various avenues such as the county, in-kind partnerships, and individuals. Cervantes presented a slide show from the visit:

- Slides 1 and 2: pictures of the progression of the Center's building.
- Slide 3: mission statement. Centro Cultural promotes education and economic development, increases cultural consciousness, responds to community needs and celebrates understanding among the diverse groups of their community. The Center does not want to be seen as just a place for Hispanics. The visiting members met with the staff of four, and Greenman explained that the staff was a team whose members were knowledgeable in everything to do with the center and its mission. She described the center as welcoming and inclusive, where no question is unwelcome. Cervantes pointed out that one of their objectives is to promote civic participation and responsibility. There is so much for a staff of four to accomplish that it could be overwhelming, but Cervantes said, from the staff's demeanor, you would never know it.
- Slide 4: office hours. The center is closed for staff meetings from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Fridays.
- Slide 5: community bulletin board. Greenman was impressed with the wide range of information that is displayed bilingually and accessible to everyone.
- Slide 6: free book area.
- Slide 7: artwork. Cervantes explained that the Latino background is diverse and the center's Latino art showcases that diversity.
- Slide 8: fellowship hall. The space is open with a large kitchen area to accommodate large groups. The community can rent out the space which gives the Center a way to generate revenue. Cervantes noted that it was built in the 1980s and is in need of an update. This kitchen has served a number of people and organizations such as senior citizens and the homeless.
- Slides 9 and 10: drop-in child care. Cervantes said that it was his understanding that individuals visiting the Virginia Garcia Wellness Clinic across the street can use the Center for short-term childcare. Greenman reported that it is licensed for six hours or less and does not need to have a full childcare provider license. The center offers childcare for all their programs and has a full-time staff person for this purpose. The visiting members were impressed with the area and recognized that it meets a critical need for single parents. Greenman explained the philosophy of charging a nominal fee so that individuals invest in the service. Children's artwork decorates the walls, giving children, along with the adults, ownership of the building.
- Slide 11: library bond and Virginia Garcia Wellness Clinic. Cervantes explained about the creative ideas for funding the rebuilding of the library. The plans include senior living space above the library. Greenman stated that the money leveraged for the senior housing will help them afford the rest of the building project. An added bonus would be that seniors living there could volunteer at the library. The Wellness Clinic is central to the main street corridor that is so well-traveled. Cervantes pointed out that over 35,000 cars drive through during the week and this presents a wonderful economic development opportunity. People coming for the town's resources shop at the businesses. Cervantes emphasized that Cornelius is a destination because it is unique. Tina Dodge Vera noted that in our area people go to Corvallis because of the lack of resources in Albany. People want to be efficient with their day and will shop where they access the needed resources. Dodge Vera expressed her appreciation of Cornelius' planning that allows for a multigenerational community. She relayed that, in addition to the senior living space being planned for the top floor of the library, the bottom floor will house the YMCA.
- Slide 12: educational wing. As the group viewed the slide, Skubinna asked where the center's instructors come from. Cervantes responded that they are volunteers who include retired people. The center has a strong relationship with both Pacific University and Lewis and Clark College.
- Slide 13: costs. Greenman noted earlier and it was reiterated that if you have people pay for something there will be better participation.
- Slide 14: rental space for mobile clinics and the center's board room.

In conclusion, it was noted that the center holds a database with participants' skill sets. Businesses or private parties can call the center to get referrals.

Dodge Vera referred back to the Center's community bulletin board and contrasted it to our community that does not have a central place to post events such as Festival Latino. Greenman added that there is a desk across from the board where a staff person is available to answer questions. Cervantes recounted that the center is an internet hotspot.

Whitley commented on Cornelius having 50 years of cultural support. Cervantes summarized how the center was founded back in 1972 by 14 immigrant families who identified needs and presented them to the county. Through their advocating, they were able to purchase a house. The process began back in the 1960s.

Greenman reported that Cornelius' City Hall has a desk that is staffed with someone that is bilingual. Dodge Vera said that a community could start off with just staffing someone two days a week and build up from there.

Discussion with Hispanic Advisory Council

The discussion continued from the presentation and how it fit the respective missions and focus of the two groups. Skubinna related the founding of Cornelius' Cultural Center to that of the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center. One person, with a 20-year background in literacy, gathered together like-minded people and made the center a reality. Skubinna shared that the Literacy Center is partnering with a nonprofit organization to host classes that teach English to Spanish speakers in rural areas such as Monroe and Philomath. The nonprofit, Strengthening Rural Families, just hired a part-time Latino outreach person. They did not use additional funds for this but reallocated other funds. Skubinna recounted an e-mail Dodge Vera had sent regarding Latino leaders across the United States. Dodge Vera explained that it is beneficial to the City to reach out to the Latino community and get them engaged civically through leadership classes because they are part of the voting contingent. Skubinna commented that it would be beneficial to target the Hispanic high school students for the Chamber of Commerce's youth leadership classes to get them connected along with the adult leadership program. It would take advantage of a program already in place. The HAC presented the Chamber with ideas to connect the Latino community but met with some resistance in that it could require additional funding. Skubinna suggested that the HRC make a push for it as a City Commission.

Cervantes presented an opportunity for the City to acquire critical information. He said that he knows of an OSU graduate student who is looking for an internship around the idea of assessing needs through focus groups. The HAC or the HRC hasn't been able to do a focused effort to hear from the community on how we can better connect to the growing population. Greenman asked if Albany has ever done such a thing. Wes Hare answered that our area has a lot of different organizations that do pieces of needs assessment but nothing that utilizes focus groups for gathering the demographics. He said that he has not seen the kind of advocating in Albany as that done in Cornelius by the 14 families that founded the Cultural Center. We have this group that is recognizing needs, but there isn't anyone coming to these meetings or City Council meetings saying that we need to do more. Cervantes said that, instead of speculating what the needs are, it would be nice to have definitive answers that the OSU student, Rebecca, could provide through her specialized training. Hare stated that the City does accommodate internships. He said to have Rebecca give him a call. Dodge Vera volunteered to act as a preceptor for Rebecca. The group liked the idea of gathering information from focus groups. Surveys are a quick way to gather information, but focus groups would obtain richer information. Greenman expressed that it would be a good way for the minority's voice to be heard. It was the group's desire to make a formal recommendation for the City to supervise an internship for OSU student Rebecca to support the HRC with assessing community needs through focus groups with Tina Dodge Vera as her preceptor and for Rebecca to give a report on her findings to the Commission.

Cervantes made a motion for the recommendation; Greenman seconded. Approved 4-0. The HAC gave their strong support.

Business from the Public

None.

October 22, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

Whitley adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Burrese
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by,

Wes Hare
City Manager



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.

October 22, 2013

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,

Gina Burrese
Administrative Assistant

Wes Hare
City Manager

Calendar of Events for 2013

- January 15, 2013** – Martin Luther King, Jr., event: Reading of Letter from Birmingham Jail, LBCC Calapooia Center
- January 22, 2013** – ~~HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., LBCC Diversity Achievement Center, Second Floor, Forum Building~~
Canceled due to lack of quorum
- January 23, 2013, City Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.** – 2012 Human Relations Award recipient presentation
- February 2013** –
- February 26, 2013** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall ~~Willamette~~ Municipal Court Room
- March 2013** –
- March 14, 2013** – Continue the Dream Project Event @ Main Library, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- March 26, 2013** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room
- April 2013** –
- April 23, 2013** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room
- April 24, 2013** – Submission of 2012 annual report to the City Council
- May 2013** – Mental Health month
- May 2, 2013** – Diversity Day at LBCC
- May 16, 2013** – HEART to Heart Resource Fair @ Boys & Girls Club
- May 28, 2013** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room
- June 2013** –
- June 25, 2013** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room
- July 2013** –
- July 4, 2013** – River Rhythms 4th of July night concert [*Thursday, July 4*]
- July 23, 2013** - HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room
- August 2013** –
- August 1, 2013** – River Rhythms concert [*Thursday, August 1*]
- August 6, 2013** – National Night Out Event
- August 22, 2013** – Community Forum regarding differences between Oregon driver cards and ODLs, 6:00 p.m. @ LBCC
- August 23-25, 2013** – Northwest Art & Air Festival
- August 27, 2013** - HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room
- September 2013** –
- September 15, 2013** – Greeters at Festival Latino, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monteith Riverpark
- September 24, 2013** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room
- October 2013** – Mental Illness Awareness week
- Community Meal (in conjunction with Mental Illness Awareness week)
 - Submission of Human Relations Award (HRA) applications [*October 1-November 29*]
- October 9, 2013** – Dr. Shakti Butler's presentation on racial inequity, 3:00-5:00 p.m. @ LBCC
- October 21, 2013** – Visit to Cornelius – Centro Cultural
- October 22, 2013** – HRC/HAC joint meeting, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Municipal Court Room
- October HRC meeting, 4:00 p.m., City Hall Municipal Court Room
- November 2013** – Submission of HRA applications [*October 11-November 29*]
- November 6, 2013** – Annual Summit on Homelessness, 9:00 a.m.-noon, City Hall
- November 26, 2013** - HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room
- ~~**December 2013** – HRA Subcommittee meets to evaluate HRA applications~~
- ~~**December 24, 2013** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room *canceled per HRC decision*~~
- ~~**December 24, 2013** – Selection of top three finalists for each of the two categories: individual, nonprofit~~

Calendar of Events for 2014

January 2014 –

First week of January 2014 – HRA Subcommittee makes selections for the Human Relations Awards

January 15, 2014 – Martin Luther King, Jr., event

January 22, 2014, City Council meeting, 7:15 p.m. – 2013 Human Relations Awards presentation

January 28, 2014 – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

February 2014 –

February 25, 2014 – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

March 2014 –

March 25, 2014 – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

April 2014 –

April 22, 2014 – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

April 23, 2014 – Submission of 2013 annual report to the City Council

May 2014 – Mental Health month

May 21, 2014 – HEART to Heart Resource Fair @ Boys & Girls Club

May 27, 2014 – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

June 2014 –

June 24, 2014 – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

July 2014 –

July 3, 2014 – River Rhythms 4th of July concert [*Thursday, July 3*]

July 22, 2014 – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

August 2014 –

August 5, 2014 – National Night Out Event

August 22-24, 2014 – Northwest Art & Air Festival

August 26, 2014 – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

September 2014 –

September 14, 2014 – Greeters at Festival Latino, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monteith Riverpark

September 23, 2014 – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

October 2014 – Mental Illness Awareness week

– Community Meal (in conjunction with Mental Illness Awareness week)

– Submission of Human Relations Award (HRA) applications [*October 1-November 28*]

October 28, 2014 – HRC/HAC joint meeting, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Municipal Court Room

– October HRC meeting, 4:00 p.m., City Hall Municipal Court Room

November 2014 – Submission of HRA applications [*October 1-November 28*]

November 5, 2014 – Annual Summit on Homelessness, 9:00 a.m.-noon, City Hall

November 25, 2014 – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

December 2014 – HRA Subcommittee meets to evaluate HRA applications

December 23, 2014 – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room