



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

City Hall, Willamette Room
Tuesday, February 25, 2014
7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - January 28, 2014. [Pages 2-5]
Action: _____
4. SCHEDULED BUSINESS
 - a. Business from the Public
 - b. Review/approval 2013 HRC Annual Report. [Pages 6-13] (Greenman)
Action: _____
 - c. Debrief
 - 1) Continuation from January meeting: 2013 Human Relations Awards. [Verbal] (Greenman)
Action: _____
 - d. Updates
 - 1) Essay activities – 4th and/or 5th graders. [Verbal] (Hare)
Action: _____
 - 2) Other volunteer opportunities. [Verbal] (Whitley)
Action: _____
 - 2) Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC). [Verbal] (Dodge Vera)
Action: _____
 - 3) Calendar of Events: 2014. [Page 14] (Whitley)
Action: _____
6. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION
7. NEXT MEETING DATE: *Tuesday, March 25, 2014*
8. ADJOURNMENT

City of Albany Web site: www.cityofalbany.net

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HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)
City Hall, Willamette Room
Tuesday, January 28, 2014
MINUTES

Commissioners present: Kim Whitley, Tina Dodge Vera, Javier Cervantes, Nancy Greenman, Jay Sluiter, and Chris Equinoa

Commissioners absent: Rob Duncan (unexcused)

Staff present: Diana Eilers, Administrative Assistant I

Others present: Tonja Everest and Lisa Shogren, Greater Albany Public School District; Tony Howell, Linn County Mental Health

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kim Whitley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSION MEMBER

Chris Equinoa introduced himself and said he recently retired from the Greater Albany Public School District. He said his last position with the District was Principal of South Albany High School. He stated that he is excited to participate and give back to the community. Each commissioner gave a brief introduction, and all welcomed Equinoa to the HRC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 26, 2013

MOTION: Jay Sluiter made a motion to approve the minutes; Javier Cervantes seconded. Approved 6-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Business from the Public

None.

Prekindergarten outreach and readiness

Tonja Everest talked about the need for pre-kindergarten learning opportunities and where some of those programs are offered. She said there is a need for young children to have access to healthcare and good nutrition in this community. At the beginning of kindergarten, children are lacking in play, social, and emotional skills. They also have difficulty controlling their impulses, delaying gratification, and being able to plan.

Lisa Shogren said there is a statewide kindergarten assessment. The assessment is used to provide parents, caregivers, teachers, and communities with information about what children need to be successful. She said the goal is to open the door to talk to one another and address children's needs before entering kindergarten. She said there are literacy and mathematics components included on the assessment. She wanted to be clear that the assessment is not used to determine if a child should enter kindergarten.

Everest said implementing the state assessment is one thing being done in the community. She said, at the beginning of the school year, each incoming kindergartener has a one-on-one assessment with their teacher. She said some school schools have implemented full-day kindergarten. She said districtwide full-day kindergarten will begin in 2015/2016. Many schools offer a summer lunch program, and lunch is provided for babies through high school kids. She said some schools also open their libraries to students in the summer. Nancy Greenman asked if kindergarteners can have breakfast at school. Everest said they can if they are morning kindergarteners.

January 28, 2014

Everest said there are a series of upcoming classes for children ages 3-6 years old. Brochures for the class are in both English and Spanish, and translation will be available during the class as well. Equinoa asked if the program has been publicized. Everest said it hasn't been widely publicized. Cervantes said it is necessary to think about how to get the message out to individuals who are living below the poverty line. Everest said that is one of the biggest challenges because it is hard to reach out to people who aren't accessing resources within the community. She said kindergarten readiness brochures are given to local doctors' offices and hospitals. It is also given to all children's parents who attend kindergarten orientation. Tina Dodge Vera said WIC should also receive the brochures. She suggested whittling the information in the brochure down to 3-5 key bullet points to make it more reader friendly.

Shogren said closing the achievement gap is important to the community. She said early academic success is a predictor of later success. Children need to be read to, talked to, and listened to. She said a child needs to hear one thousand stories before they are able to read. The single most important thing parents can do is read to their children. Everest said there are many resources available in the community. She would like to see the community take part in the Imagination Library. Click here to follow the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWUakeI2MD0>. She said children ages 0-5 in the program receive a book in the mail once each month.

Equinoa said poverty is the key link to children having access to learning resources. He said kids need to be read to, have a full stomach, and be cared for. He said some children are coming to school unprepared. He said the community needs to think about how this can be addressed and work together to solve the problem. Once a child is behind, it is extremely difficult for them to catch up.

Sluiter said that it comes down to what parents are doing to help their children. He said it is often left up to the schools and communities to bring the opportunities to the children and by then, the children are often already behind. Equinoa said the cycle has to be broken. Cervantes said what we are talking about is cultural traits. He said if individuals don't have access to what the cultural norms are; it is difficult to meet the expectations.

Whitley discussed how County Care Organizations (CCOs) will be integrating with the Early Learning Hub. She said this will allow for an access point for all types of services for children. She said the biggest roadblock for this collaboration is funding; however, there is an underlying expectation that the business community will provide the resources.

Everest recommended the book *NurtureShock* to the group. She said it is a great resource for parents and individuals who work with children. The group thanked Everest and Shogren for coming to the meeting and sharing their information.

Mental Health Month (MHM) – May 2014

Whitley said the HRC wants to be helpful in supporting MHM. Tony Howell, Linn County Mental Health, said the Mental Health Advisory Board provides activities during MHM. There are several mental health literacy projects in the works. He said there will be a focus on children during this year's MHM. He said Linn County Students Taking Action Not Drinking (S.T.A.N.D.) meets to create and provide messages for the community and their peers. The group is working on mental health awareness posters for teens as part of MHM.

Greenman asked if there is a proclamation for MHM. Howell believes he can locate a proclamation. Whitley said that a proclamation could be read by the Mayor and then a presentation could be made recognizing local youth who are helping their peers. Equinoa suggested contacting the high school counselors to find out which student groups are involved with peer mediation. The HRC would like to have the students make a presentation regarding MHM at the February 2014 HRC meeting. Howell said he would check to see if any students can attend the next meeting. *[At the request of Tony Howell and approved by Whitley, this item has been postponed to the March or April HRC meeting.]*

The group thanked Howell for the information.

Draft 2013 HRC Annual Report

Greenman asked everyone to review the Report, and then it can be considered for approval at next week's meeting.

DEBRIEFS

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

Whitley said the event was great. She said the most exciting piece for her was the hearing the different people reading Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, speech. Cervantes suggested having a more formal closing at the end of the event. He said it would be good to have a small reception of some sort in the lobby of City Hall. Greenman said the event went well and it received good coverage from the *Albany Democrat-Herald*. She said it would be nice to have people talk about what the speech means to them. Whitley thanked staff for having everything well prepared for the event.

2013 Human Relations Awards

Greenman, Whitley, and Michael Thomson presented the Human Relations Awards at the January 22, 2014, City Council meeting. Greenman said the presentation went smoothly and thanked staff for doing a wonderful job preparing the certificates and awards. She said it was the first time in 37 years that Christmas Storybook Land has been recognized for their contributions to the community. She said Thomson shared some thoughts with her about improvements for next year's awards. She asked that this item be continued in February for further discussion.

UPDATES

Essay activities – 4th and/or 5th graders

Discussion postponed.

Other volunteer opportunities

Discussion postponed.

Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC)

Dodge Vera mentioned that there is an OSU graduate student who is working on a project which compares the similarities of Latino immigration and Roman immigration.

Calendar of Events: 2014

Discussion postponed.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

Javier said there is a Unity Celebration at Linn-Benton Community College on February 26 at 4:00 p.m. The event will take place in the Diversity Achievement Center located on the second floor of the Forum. He asked staff to send the invitation to the Mayor and City Councilors.

Whitley noted that Equinoa needs a nametag.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Whitley adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on File

Diana Eilers
Administrative Assistant I

Reviewed by,

Signature on File

Wes Hare
City Manager

**Albany Human Relations Commission
Annual Report (January – December 2013)
Date: December 29, 2013**

The Human Relations Commission was established in 2007 “to promote harmonious relations among citizens of Albany” through recommendations of “programs, activities, ordinances, expenditures and other appropriate governmental activities which will serve the goal of maintaining respectful interactions within our community.” (Ord. 5671 § 1, 2007; Ord. 5665 § 1, 2007).

A brief review of Commission activities during 2013 is set forth below. A history of Commission membership and attendance is attached to this report.

January 2013:

Presented the second annual Albany Human Relations Award to Miao Zhao at the City Council Meeting. The award was created to recognize individuals, organizations, or businesses in Albany that have worked to promote harmonious relations among the citizens of Albany. Selection will be based on a demonstrated commitment to promoting human relations, diversity, and/or equality through community programs and activities. Zhao was recognized for her work with the InReach Clinic and other community work.

Members participated in the reading of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s, Letter from Birmingham Jail at Linn-Benton Community College in observance of MLK Jr.’s Birthday.

February 2013:

Members met with Jennifer Sanders, Chief Operations Officer for Linn-Benton Housing Authority (LBHA). Jennifer Sanders explained how the LBHA runs the Section 8 program and various other housing projects. She said statistics show that their programs are not helping the minority groups in proportion to the population.

March 2013:

Members attended a “Continue the Dream” event in which Albany students in grades 3 and 6-8 and their teachers presented art and writing students had created to reflect the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

May 2013:

Participated in the HEART to Heart Resource Fair. Members invited Fair participants to complete a survey focused on access to community resources. The survey listed 19 public and nonprofit resources and asked respondents about their comfort level in accessing each. Twenty-one participants completed the survey.

July 2013:

Members acted as greeters at the July 4 River Rhythms concert, welcoming concert-goers and handing out programs.

August 2013:

Members attended the August 1 River Rhythms concert, welcoming concert-goers and handing out information about future events.

September 2013:

Participated in Festival Latino. HRC members served as Festival greeters, welcoming people as they arrived and urging them to participate in the Festival raffle.

October 2013:

Distributed and publicized information and nomination forms for the Annual Human Relations Award.

Three members visited the Cornelius Multicultural Center and met with staff to hear about Center history, focus, and programs. These members shared the information they had gathered with the full Commission at the October joint meeting with the Hispanic Advisory Council.

Met jointly with the Hispanic Advisory Council to discuss progress since the last meeting in 2012, current work of each group, and issues or concerns for focus in the coming year. After the presentation on the Cornelius Center (above), members discussed the desirability of reaching out to the community through a needs assessment. HRC members voted to take advantage of the availability of an OSU graduate student and preceptorship to recommend that focus groups be held to gather input from the Latino community about community experience, needs, and strengths. Other HAC/HRC discussion focused on how to assure accessible resources and information to the community year-round. Members of both groups expressed great satisfaction with the meeting and the information shared.

November 2013:

Members participated in the Annual Summit on Homelessness. Members met with Frank Moore and Clifford Hartman from the Linn County Mental Health Department; and Tony Howell from the Linn County Alcohol and Drug Program, to begin preliminary discussion about possible activities to observe Mental Health Awareness Month in May. Members also met with Tara Dixon, GAPS McKinney-Vento (homeless student) Liaison; Monica Lorence, Linn County Outreach Coordinator of Jackson Street Youth Shelter, and Andrea Myhre, Grant Officer with the Jackson Street Youth Shelter; and Cristie Lynch, Marketing & Communications Manager for Samaritan Health; who shared data and information about children and youth in Albany who do not have homes, the services available, and the gaps in services and resources. Ms. Lorence also shared information about the planned opening of a youth shelter in Linn County.

December 2013:

Members attended the City's annual memorials for unhoused people who had died during the past year.

The Commission HR Award Subcommittee selected the recipients of the third annual Human Relations Award to be presented in January 2013. This year's awards include both an individual and a nonprofit organization recipient.

Conclusion: Looking back, the Commission is grateful for the opportunities available to further its purpose. It is especially grateful for the support and assistance of City of Albany staff, including City Manager Wes Hare, City Public Information Officer Marilyn Smith, and Administrative Assistants Diana Eilers and Gina Burrese; and of its collaborative partners, including Linn County Mental Health, Linn Benton Hispanic Advisory Committee, and Oregon State University. It is also grateful to City, County, and community partner staff members who attended meetings to share information and answer questions, including Jennifer Sanders of the Linn Benton Housing Authority; Greg Roe of the United Way; Chief Mario Lattanzio of the Albany Police Department; Katie Nooshazar, Debbi Richards, and Rose Lacey of the Albany Parks & Recreation Department; Anne Catlin of the Community Development Department; Frank Moore, Clifford Hartman, and Tony Howell of the Linn County Mental Health Department and Mental Health Advisory Board; Tara Dixson of GAPS; and Monica Lorence of Jackson Street Youth Shelter; and to Executive Assistant Laura Hyde for her work on preparing the Commission history that is attached to this report. We look forward to continuing these and other positive activities in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Whitley, Chair

Nancy Greenman,
Vice Chair

Javier Cervantes

Rob Duncan

Jay Sluiter

Tina Dodge Vera

Chris Equinoa

Human Relations Commission

Commission Established

Council adopted Ordinance No. 5665, March 28, 2007, creating Albany Municipal Code Chapter 2.25, establishing the Human Relations Commission (HRC).

Council adopted Ordinance No. 5671, May 9, 2007, amending AMC 2.25.020 [*commissioners must reside within the Albany city limits*] and 2.25.030 [*initial terms to be staggered according to the appointee's surname beginning with three-year terms for those closest to the beginning of the alphabet*].

Purpose: The Human Relations Commission was established by the Albany City Council to promote harmonious relations among the citizens of Albany. It is created to recommend programs, activities, ordinances, expenditures, and other appropriate governmental activities which will serve the goal of maintaining respectful interactions within our community.

First Commissioners

Name	Appointed By	Appointment Date	Term Expiration Date	Comments
Rafael Palacios	Mayor Doug Killin	07-25-2007	12-31-2007	Resigned 08-08-2007; he relocated to California; Blanca Ruckert appointed as replacement.
Blanca Ruckert	Mayor Doug Killin	08-08-2007	12-31-2007	none
Jodi Nelson	Councilor Dan Bedore	07-25-2007	12-31-2007	none
Rick Hammel, Jr.	Councilor Dick Olsen	07-25-2007	12-31-2008	none
Delia Guillen	Councilor Ralph Reid, Jr.	07-25-2007	12-31-2008	none
C. Jeffery Evans	Councilor Sharon Konopa	07-25-2007	12-31-2009	none
Marian Anderson	Councilor Jeff Christman	07-25-2007	12-31-2009	none
Anna Anderson	Councilor Bessie Johnson	08-08-2007	12-31-2009	none

First Meeting/First Officers

HRC's first meeting was Tuesday, September 25, 2007. At the second meeting [October 23, 2007], the first Chair and Vice Chair were elected. C. Jeffery Evans was elected Chair and Blanca Ruckert as Vice Chair.

Subsequent Commissioners

Resignations/Reappointments/New Appointments

- Blanca Ruckert was reappointed 01-07-2008 by Mayor Killin; new term expires 12-31-2010.
- Jodi Nelson was reappointed 01-09-2008 by Councilor Bedore; new term expires 12-31-2010.
- Anna Anderson resigned 08-13-2008; Councilor Johnson appointed Kim Whitley on 08-27-2008, as her replacement for the term expiring 12-31-2009.
- Delia Guillen resigned 09-09-2008; Councilor Reid appointed John Hartman on 10-22-2008, as her replacement for the term expiring 12-31-2008.
- Margaret Martinez was appointed 01-14-2009 by Councilor Reid replacing John Hartman, whose term expired 12-31-2008. Margaret's three-year term expires 12-31-2011.
- Nancy Greenman was appointed 01-14-2009 by Councilor Olsen replacing Rick Hammel, Jr., whose term expired 12-31-2008. Nancy's three-year term expires 12-31-2011.
- Blanca Ruckert resigned 04-22-2009; Mayor Konopa appointed Michael Thompson on 06-24-2009, as her replacement for the term expiring 12-31-2010.
- C. Jeffery Evans resigned 06-24-2009; vacant term expired 12-31-2009. Councilor Coburn appointed Linda Hart on 06-23-10, for a new three-year expiring 12-31-2012.
- Marian Anderson resigned 09-09-2009; vacant term expired 12-31-2009. Councilor Christman appointed Tina Dodge Vera on 02-10-2010, for a new three-year expiring 12-31-2012.
- Kim Whitley was reappointed 01-13-2010 by Councilor Johnson; new term expires 12-31-2012.
- Jodi Nelson resigned 06-10-10; vacant term expires 12-31-2010. Councilor Collins appointed Julie Jones on 07-14-2010, as her replacement for the term expiring 12-31-2010.
- Julie Jones was reappointed 01-12-2011 by Councilor Collins; new term expires 12-31-2013.
- Michael Thomson was reappointed 01-12-2011 by Mayor Konopa; new term expires 12-31-2013.
- Margaret Martinez completed her three-year term that expired 12-31-2011. Council Kopczynski appointed Leonor Rodriguez on 01-11-2012 for a new three-year expiring 12-31-2014.
- Nancy Greenman was reappointed 01-11-2012 by Councilor Olsen; new term expires 12-31-2014.
- Kim Whitley was reappointed 01-09-2013 by Councilor Johnson; new term expires 12-31-2015.
- Tina Dodge Vera was reappointed 02-13-13 by Councilor Coburn; new term expires 12-31-2015.
- Jay Sluiter was appointed 02-13-13 by Councilor Kellum; new term expires 12-31-2015.
- Leonor Rodriguez resigned 09-10-13; vacant term expires 12-31-2014. Councilor Kopczynski appointed Rob Duncan on 09-25-2013, as her replacement for the term expiring 12-31-2014.

Current HRC Roster (as of January 17, 2014)

Name	Appointment By	Term Expiration Date
Nancy Greenman	Councilor Dick Olsen	12-31-2014
Rob Duncan	Councilor Ray Kopczynski	12-31-2014
Tina Dodge Vera	Councilor Bill Coburn	12-31-2015
Jay Sluiter	Councilor Rich Kellum	12-31-2015
Kim Whitley	Councilor Bessie Johnson	12-31-2015
Javier Cervantes	Councilor Floyd Collins	12-31-2016
Chris Equinoa	Mayor Sharon Konopa	12-31-2016

Visitors who have attended an HRC meeting in 2009

Sharon Gisler
Michael Thomson
Mayor Sharon Konopa
Gerald Gisler
John Phillips
Margo Coleman
Alice Fitzpatrick
Donna Copeland
Bill Root
June Hemmingson
Larry Eby
Penny Miltenberger
Dan Miltenberger
Phillipa Meehan
Dick Owen
Rosa Plascencia
Tina Dodge Vera

Visitors who have attended an HRC meeting in 2010

Clifford Hartman, Linn County Mental Health
Jim Bell, LBCC
Mary Zelinka, CARDV
Linda Hart
Frank Moore, Linn County Mental Health
Catherine Henderson, Mental Health Advisory

Visitors who have attended an HRC meeting in 2011

Sue McGuire-Thompson, Community Services Consortium
Debbie Little, Community Services Consortium
Vawna Shepherd
Ora Mowdy
Shawn Smith
Westen Hoover
Ramos Pacheco
Andy Phillips
Jamie Lavery
Anna Benson, Linn-Benton Housing Authority
Jeanette Emerson, LBCC student
Chelsea Baker, LBCC student
Daniel Trinidad, LBCC student
Jodie Nelson, OSU

Students attending classes at Community Services Consortium.

Visitors who have attended an HRC meeting in 2012

Frank Moore, Linn County Mental Health
Clifford Hartman, Linn County Mental Health
Kathryn Henderson, Linn County Mental Health Advisory Board
Jim Clausen
Doug Finegan
Dick Knowles, Linn County Mental Health Advisory Board
Dede Burns-McLay, CARDV

Visitors who have attended an HRC meeting in 2013

Jennifer Sanders, Chief Operations Officer for Linn-Benton Housing Authority
Albany Mayor Sharon Konopa
Greg Roe, United Way of Linn County Executive Director
Katie Nooshazar, Recreation Programs Manager, City of Albany Parks & Recreation
Debbi Richards, Recreation Programs Supervisor, City of Albany Parks & Recreation
Rose Lacey, Recreation Programs Specialist, City of Albany Parks & Recreation
Anne Catlin, Planner III, City of Albany Community Development
Frank Moore, Linn County Mental Health
Clifford Hartman, Linn County Mental Health
Tony Howell, Linn County Alcohol & Drug Program
Cristie Lynch, Samaritan Health Marketing & Communications Manager
Tara Dixon, GAPS McKinney-Vento (homeless student) Liaison
Monica Lorence, Linn County Outreach Coordinator of Jackson Street Youth Shelter
Andrea Myhre, Grant Officer with the Jackson Street Youth Shelter

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