



APPROVED: June 24, 2014

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)**

City Hall, Municipal Court Room

Tuesday, May 27, 2014

**MINUTES**

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

Commissioners absent: Rob Duncan (excused)

Staff present: Wes Hare, City Manager; Gina Burrese, Administrative Assistant

Others present: None

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kim Whitley called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

April 22, 2014

**MOTION:** Chris Equinoa made a motion to approve the minutes; Javier Cervantes seconded. Approved 6-0.

**SCHEDULED BUSINESS**

Business from the Public

None.

Review/approval 2013 HRC Annual Report

**MOTION:** Whitley moved to approve the report; Jay Sluiter seconded. Approved 6-0.

Whitley requested that the report be submitted for the June 9 City Council meeting. She asked that Laura Hyde, Executive Assistant to the City Manager, send an e-mail to the group when the document is ready for their signatures. The group decided that they did not need to personally present the report at the City Council meeting.

Participation at 2014 River Rhythms concerts

The group discussed how they had participated in previous years, noting that staffing a table at the event and passing the basket did not work well for their mission. They decided to participate this year as greeters. Whitley and Equinoa volunteered to be greeters for the July 10 concert; Nancy Greenman, Javier Cervantes, and Jay Sluiter for the 24<sup>th</sup>. Members of the committee expressed the need to further review their calendars before committing to additional dates.

Whitley requested that this discussion be continued at the June meeting and encouraged the group to be considering which concert nights they could participate.

**DEBRIEFS**

Mental Health Month – May 2014

Whitley noted that Mayor Sharon Konopa signed the Mental Health Month Proclamation on May 14, 2014. She also noted that the City's website featured an article titled *May is Mental Health Awareness Month: Wellness is more than physical*. Whitley conveyed her approval and wanted the group to be aware that the article references Linn County's "Today I am Campaign."

HEART to Heart Resource Fair – May 15

The group discussed the summary provided by Marilyn Smith, Management Assistant/Public Information Officer. Greenman noted her surprise that half of the visitors were first time attendees. Equinoa expressed that the community response seemed significant with both those visiting and the organizations volunteering. Hare agreed, saying that he was proud of the City's association with the event. Greenman said that she looks forward to next year's event and, hopefully, the group's participation in it.

UPDATES

Other volunteer opportunities

Whitley asked the group if they were interested in participating in this year's National Night Out event. Equinoa wanted to know how the group traditionally participates. Greenman described how the group has participated in prior years. Hare suggested inviting Community Education Specialist Sandy Roberts to explain the program to the group and make suggestions on how the group could be involved. The group liked the idea.

Whitley requested that the event be added to the next agenda, and that the group is provided with a list of the neighborhoods that are participating.

Cervantes asked if the Latino population was involved. Hare responded that previous attempts to include them have not been successful. Cervantes asked what Latino neighborhood the group could focus on. Dodge Vera recommended the Sunrise district. She said that interest was shown but not many of the residents are bilingual, making event coordination and planning challenging. Cervantes wondered if an event for the neighborhood would be successful if someone like himself, who is bilingual, did the coordinating. Equinoa suggested contacting the principal of Sunrise Elementary to help promote the event. The school could make connections through the Parent Teacher Club. He said that the school has made a commitment to engage with the neighborhood. Cervantes asked if the renovations to Sunrise Park would be complete before the National Night Out event. Discussion followed regarding the procedures involved in the grant process for Sunrise Park.

The group would like to invite the Parks & Recreation Department to explain the details regarding the park's renovation procedures and status.

Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC)

No update at this time.

Calendar of Events: 2014

Cervantes invited the group to the drivers' card debate coming up at Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC) on Tuesday, October 28, 2014. Dodge Vera asked when the community play regarding the veterans was happening. Cervantes answered that it would be late fall or mid-winter. Equinoa said that he expressed to Theater Director Dan Stone that the group would like to be invited to the play.

Whitley inquired as to what groups of people they could focus on that they haven't reached out to yet. Hare commented that our community seems to be increasing in major individual tragedies. This does not necessarily represent a threat to the safety of the general population (Albany is listed as the second safest city in Oregon), but does bring up the question of what is detracting from quality of life in this community. Whitley asked who could help with that question. Greenman remarked that our police officers would have a solid perspective since they are the ones that are being called upon when these tragedies arise. Discussion followed regarding community services and budgeting for those services. Equinoa expressed that this group needs to be reaching out to community service agencies and advocating for them. Cervantes said that the group should be working with the County to address these needs.

The group would like to invite Community Resource Officer Casey Dorland to an upcoming meeting to speak with them about these issues in Albany.

May 27, 2014

Cervantes suggested that the group host a table at LBCC's Welcome Day Event on Thursday, September 25, 2014. Whitley requested that the topic be added to the next agenda for discussion.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Whitley adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Signature on File*

Gina Burrese  
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by,

*Signature on File*

Wes Hare  
City Manager