



APPROVED: July 22, 2014

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)

City Hall, Willamette Room

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

MINUTES

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

Commissioners absent: Javier Cervantes (unexcused)

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

Others present: Sandy Roberts, Community Education Specialist

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kim Whitley called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 27, 2014

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

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Business from the Public

None.

National Night Out (Tuesday, August 5)

Whitley welcomed Sandy Roberts, Community Education Specialist, to the meeting and directed the group to take note of the National Night Out 2014 Event Schedule that was included in their agenda packet. The schedule lists neighborhoods that participate in the event. The neighborhoods with the asterisk are neighborhoods that have registered so far. Roberts explained that the Albany Police Department (APD) will process registrations up to a week prior to the event. She informed the group that APD created an index of Albany's apartment complexes and marketed the event to the landlords and residents. This is the first year that an entire complex has registered for the event. Roberts shared that this is her first year to organize Albany's involvement in the national event. She explained the origin of the event and its goal to strengthen police-community partnerships. For the Albany event, an officer is assigned to each registered neighborhood. The neighborhoods with the most children will also be assigned a fire truck visit. Representatives from the Target store have volunteered to accompany the police officers to the participating neighborhoods. The K-9 program will be involved as well. Roberts noted that APD is down on staff and will have to use officers on overtime for the event. Everyone from the Police Chief to the cadets will be out visiting the neighborhoods from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Each Neighborhood Watch contact will receive overall crime stats of the last five years for their neighborhood.

The event is open to all neighborhoods. Online registration is available through the City's and APD's website and Facebook accounts. Information was sent out to the Neighborhood Watch groups, and the event is being announced in the *Democrat-Herald*.

Dodge Vera inquired about how crime compares between neighborhoods that are involved in Neighborhood Watch programs and those that are not. Roberts shared that crime statistics can be found online at CrimeReports.com or RaidsOnline.com. CrimeReports allows citizens to search their current crime statistics and see what is happening in their neighborhood right now. It is updated once daily. RaidsOnline is beneficial for advanced searches. Greenman asked if Roberts had a sense for neighborhoods with higher crime. Roberts answered that she did. As part of the crime prevention program, she receives crime information from the APD's daily Crystal Reports. Roberts connects by phone with each victim of a burglary and talks over prevention methods where applicable. She said that the Lehigh and Lexington neighborhoods are among the highest in property crime. Whitley asked if the reports include vandalism. Roberts

answered that they do not. Dodge Vera asked if Roberts meets with community groups to provide education. Roberts replied that she does and is happy to do so but explained that this week her schedule is full with student camps. She can answer questions through calls and e-mail, though. Roberts explained how APD is actively pursuing landlords and tenants to participate in landlord/tenant training classes. The class will teach landlord/tenant laws and what it takes to be a good landlord or tenant. Both Police Officers and City Code Enforcement Officers will teach at the class. They are looking into LBCC as a possible venue.

Dodge Vera asked if the National Night Out information was available in Spanish. Roberts said that it is not, but it is her desire to do so. APD has officers who can interpret for someone speaking Spanish, but there are no resources for written translation. Roberts asked the group if they knew of anyone that could volunteer to provide that service. Dodge Vera replied that it would take a person or a team of people with a very specialized skill set. The information needs to be translated in context and be relevant to avoid miscommunication. Chris Equinoa agreed. He said that as a school administrator he experienced the frustration of having to have documents retranslated because their information was not adequate. Greenman expressed that the Latino population in the area is large and so the need for this is significant. She relayed that Spanish translation should be a priority and not an afterthought. Roberts said that her desire is for everyone to know that APD is asking, "What can we do for you?". Whitley said that it is important for those with diverse backgrounds who are brave enough to reach out for help to have a positive experience or they might not reach out again. She expressed that is the community's job to make everyone feel welcomed and that they are not an afterthought. Greenman said that priorities are often based on people's traditions and that this group needs to keep bringing these needs to the forefront to help people rethink their traditions. Wes Hare noted that the City is far more conscious in this area than a few years ago and that the City has increased its number of Spanish speaking employees, attracting them through pay incentives. He also noted that there is a difference between the Hispanic population in general and the Hispanic population that has expressed a need for translation. Equinoa said that with the ever growing Latino population now is the time to be proactive rather than reactive.

The group thanked Roberts for her time. Roberts said to please e-mail or call her with any questions or to set up a time to meet with her.

Whitley asked the group if they had any thoughts on participation in the event. There were none at this time.

Participation at 2014 River Rhythms concerts

Whitley reiterated that she and Equinoa had volunteered to be greeters at the July 10 concert. Greenman noted that she and Javier Cervantes had volunteered for the July 24 concert, but the memo sent out regarding involvement did not list "greeter" as a volunteer option for that night.

Participation at 2014 Northwest Art & Air Festival (August 22-24)

Whitley asked if anyone was interested in participating at this event, but, of the members present, no one would be available the designated dates. Hare relayed that, although the HRC's presence at the event would be beneficial in bringing awareness of their group, it is definitely not a requirement. The HRC has already donated plenty of their time to the City.

LBCC Welcome Day event (September 25)

Whitley asked that this discussion be postponed until the next meeting since Cervantes is absent.

Joint meeting date with Hispanic Advisory Council

Dodge Vera will e-mail the HAC members to confirm if October 28 will work as a joint meeting date.

UPDATES

Other volunteer opportunities

None.

Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC)

Dodge Vera said that she had not attended the meeting and, therefore, could not give a report. She informed the group that Festival Latino's date had changed from September 14 to September 21. The event will take place at Monteith Riverpark from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Calendar of Events: 2014

No events were discussed.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

Greenman asked about the submission of the Annual Report. Hare said that the Council had accepted the report without any issues and that the Mayor had expressed her appreciation for all the Commission's hard work.

Whitley announced that Debbie Berg had accepted the invitation to fill the HRC's vacant position and was set to be appointed at the June 25 City Council meeting. Whitley said that she had e-mailed an invitation to Berg to tonight's meeting as a guest.

Equinoa inquired about the essay submission. Hare apologized that he had forgotten to report at the last meeting that School Superintendent Maria Delapoer had to regretfully cancel the contest after input from the teachers that, with all the other end of the year activities, there was not enough time to do the contest justice. The group decided to bring it up again at the start of the next school year.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Whitley adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Gina Burrese
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Wes Hare
City Manager