



APPROVED: November 24, 2015

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)

City Hall, Municipal Court Room

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

MINUTES

Commissioners present: Kim Whitley, Javier Cervantes, Graham Kislingbury, Tina Dodge Vera

Commissioners absent: Chris Equinoa (excused), Denise Hughes-Tafen (excused), Jay Sluiter (unexcused)

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

Others present: Captain Eric Carter, Albany Police Department

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Javier Cervantes called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 22, 2015

MOTION: Kim Whitley made a motion to approve the minutes; Graham Kislingbury seconded. Approved 4-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Business from the Public

None.

Mental Illness awareness discussion

Scheduled guests Dr. Don Nelson and Captain Todd Vian mistook the meeting time for its usual time of 7:00 p.m. and did not arrive in time. Cervantes requested that the discussion be postponed and rescheduled for the November meeting. Whitley expressed her appreciation for the three guests' willingness to show up.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coffee With a Cop, Monday, November 2

Cervantes passed out flyers provided by City staff that announced the event in English on one side and Spanish on the other. Whitley said that she was impressed that the flyers were done in both languages. She expressed her appreciation to the staff that created the colorful flyer, saying that it was fabulous and a really great work.

Annual Summit on Homelessness, Wednesday, November 4; 9:00 a.m. – noon; City Hall

Since Whitley had brought up supporting a state-led health and housing forum at the earlier HRC and HAC meeting, Public Information Officer Marilyn Smith pointed out that the whole focus of the summit this year is housing and that Kenny LaPoint and Ernie Kirchner from the Oregon Office of Housing and Community Services would be coming. She said it would be a good place to plant a seed for the forum. Whitley agreed, saying that LaPoint wanted to make sure he had some support from the community before hosting a forum and had asked her to bring the idea before the Commission to see if there would be any interest in supporting their effort.

Cervantes asked about the format of the summit. Smith explained that it would be a series of short presentations followed by group discussion. Whitley added that the forum the state was asking the HRC to sponsor would be a continuation of the discussion.

Annual Memorial Service for Homeless, Monday, December 21

Smith explained the event would be held in the City Hall Plaza and, for the first time, in the evening. It is on the shortest day of the year. This is when it is typically held around the country; but, in the past, Albany has hosted it during the afternoon on whatever day was convenient. This year's event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a candlelight ceremony. She encouraged the Commission to attend. Cervantes noted that the event would be feasible to attend with no travel involved and that the group had one more month to discuss their attendance.

UPDATES

Human Relations Award for Calendar Year 2015

Cervantes reported that the press release would be sent out again. He encouraged everyone to forward the information on to their own networks to try and gain nominations. He said there is still time to get the word out before the December 4 deadline. City Manager Wes Hare noted that the group could extend the deadline. Cervantes responded to keep it where it was for now and only extend it if they have to.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Not discussed.

Hispanic Advisory Committee

Not discussed since they met with the Committee prior to the meeting.

Calendar of Events: 2015

Cervantes brought up the Martin Luther King, Jr. event and asked the group what speech they would like to read this year. Whitley suggested using a motivational speech from another figure since it is a day to celebrate inclusion and not just to remember Martin Luther King, Jr. She recommended using a Cesar Chavez speech. Cervantes responded that they could do that in April, have a broader discussion of using another figure for next time, but keep a Martin Luther King, Jr., selection for this January. Kislingbury suggested using Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech. Cervantes liked the idea and said that he would check into the feasibility of it working for their venue.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

Tina Dodge Vera asked if any of the City Councilors attended the Tim Wise lecture. Hare responded that he didn't think they had, but that the Fire and Police Chiefs had, along with employees from the Community Development Department. Cervantes asked Hare and Captain Eric Carter if there were any follow-up discussions within the different departments. Hare answered that there were conversations among individuals. Carter responded that there was nothing formal at the Police Department but there were individual conversations as well. Dodge Vera said that others could benefit from the lecture and asked if the HRC could sponsor a link to the lecture on the City's cable channel. Smith said that she would look into it and see if it could be broadcast using the link that Cervantes had shared with the group. Cervantes expressed his approval of the idea. Kislingbury commented that he hadn't remembered seeing the room at LBCC so full during the day. He wasn't able to attend the event but saw a picture of it. Cervantes reported that 400 attended and another 600 at the OSU showing. He thanked those who attended the event. Dodge Vera shared that she continues to reflect on Tim Wise's speech and how she can use her privilege for those who may not have that unearned privilege. She expressed her appreciation for LBCC hosting the event. Cervantes asked if Hare could send the link to the Council and he responded that he could.

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ADJOURNMENT

Cervantes adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Gina Burrese
Administrative Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Holly Roten
Administrative Assistant I

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Wes Hare
City Manager