



APPROVED: February 23, 2016

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)  
City Hall, Willamette Room  
Tuesday, January 26, 2016  
MINUTES

Commissioners present: Javier Cervantes, Graham Kislingbury, Denise Hughes-Tafen, Chris Equinoa

Commissioners absent: Tina Dodge Vera (excused), Kim Whitley

Staff present: Wes Hare, City Manager

Others present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Javier Cervantes called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 15, 2015

**MOTION:** Graham Kislingbury made a motion to approve the minutes; Chris Equinoa seconded. Approved 4-0.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**MOTION:** Chris Equinoa made a motion for Javier Cervantes to remain as Chair and Graham Kislingbury to remain as the Vice Chair; Denise Hughes-Tafen seconded. Approved 4-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Business from the Public

None.

OSU Extension Services' educational assessment

Due to Tina Dodge Vera's absence, Cervantes requested that this subject be carried over to next month's agenda.

Date for semiannual joint meeting with Hispanic Advisory Committee

The group decided to hold the meeting on April 26 at 3:00 p.m.

Preparation of 2015 HRC Annual Report

The group decided to aim presenting the report at the February 24 City Council meeting. Cervantes will prepare the report and Kislingbury will read it.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coffee with a Cop, Tuesday, February 9

Cervantes and Equinoa plan on attending. Hare shared that the Officers are sincere in wanting people to show up. The last such event Hare attended seemed to him as being very relaxed and informal, giving people the opportunity to talk with police about what was on their mind.

Equinoa shared that he and Police Lieutenant Alan Lynn had a discussion about the event and the lack of publicity for it. City Manager Wes Hare noted that the event is advertised in the *City Bridges*, *Albany Democrat Herald*, and through

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posters displayed by police officers and City staff. At Kislingbury's suggestion, Hare is going to check if the event is posted on Facebook. Denise Hughes-Tafen commented that the low numbers could be due to the time of day the event is held. She suggested hosting one in the evening. Hare said the Police Department continues to experiment with the time and the location. Cervantes encouraged the group that when they receive an electronic version of the event poster to send it on to their own networks.

Hare shared that the Police Officers make a tremendous effort to reach out to the community, such as with the Citizen's Academy. Hare added that the Officers feel they have not made a solid connection with the Hispanic Community as of yet.

#### Presentation of 2015 Human Relations Awards

Equinoa reviewed the process with the group, saying that it is good to have at least 3 presenters. Equinoa volunteered to be one of the presenters and to give the introduction. Hare shared with the group that the awards arrived and are ready to go for the presentation. Cervantes shared who the recipients of the awards will be and said that they had been contacted. Cervantes and Kislingbury volunteered to help Equinoa present the awards. Hughes-Tafen relayed that she will not be able to attend the event.

#### Racism workshop

Kislingbury shared that he had misunderstood about the event being open to the public. The organizers of the workshop did not envision the workshop as a community wide event but, given the topic, saw it as a safer environment for discussion if kept within the church. Equinoa asked if the topic changed for each meeting. Kislingbury answered that it did, with the next one being on micro aggression.

Kislingbury recommended a book to the group, saying it is a good prelude to the next workshop session: Pre-Post-Racial America by Sandhya Rani Jha, who is a Disciples of Christ Minister and, also, a community activist. He will bring the book to the next meeting for group members to borrow if interested in reading it. Cervantes interjected that for those interested in social justice issues from a spiritual perspective, Father Michael Phleger is someone good to listen to. His sermons are passionate around issues that are impacting the black community in Southside Chicago.

Equinoa and Cervantes said that they would try to attend the next workshop. Hughes Tafen shared that she will be going. Kislingbury said that he would add them to the list and explained that a light lunch will be provided.

#### DEBRIEFS

##### Hispanic Advisory Committee holiday potluck

Cervantes attended the potluck. He said that they had an impromptu meeting where the Committee planned for their next retreat. The retreat is scheduled for February 20, at LBCC's Diversity Achievement Center. The agenda for the retreat will include the topic Community Asset Involvement: seeing minorities as assets rather than liabilities. Cervantes encouraged the group to ask Tina Dodge Vera for more information.

##### Annual Memorial Service for Homeless

Kislingbury reported that it was a good service. He said that he would have liked the words of the songs printed on a hand-out since it was hard to hear at times.

Equinoa said that he had thought the service was going to be held inside and was surprised to see it was all conducted outside. He reported that it was a nice memorial that was well received, with approximately 50 to 60 community members in attendance.

Event for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

Kislingbury asserted that the event needs to get in the newspaper ahead of time. He sent pictures of this event to the *Albany Democrat Herald* and they printed a small article a couple of days after the event.

Hare shared that Management Assistant/Public Information Officer Marilyn Smith had received a lot of positive feedback from those that read portions of the speech. Equinoa expressed his appreciation of having video of King silently playing in the background.

Cervantes directed the group to start thinking about next year. Kislingbury suggested Paul's Letter to the American Christians by King, noting that the speech gets into religion but has a meaningful way of relating scriptures to the movement. Cervantes suggested King's Oppositions to the Vietnam War.

It was noted that King's birthday will be on a Sunday next year. Hare communicated that City Hall is closed for the Holiday on Monday, but could be opened for the event. After discussion, the group decided that they would hold next year's event on Friday, January 13, 2017.

Hughes Tafen advised holding the event after school so school aged children could attend. Discussion followed about holding the event at an area school. The group decided against it due to reservations about the impact a King speech would have on an elementary age group and the difficulty of hosting a whole assembly for the middle or high school age group. Equinoa said that, if notified ahead of time, the schools could accommodate sending kids to the event at City Hall if they were interested. Hare explained that one year the City held a forum in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. where high school kids and the Mayor participated. It was a multi-generational engagement that went well.

Cervantes requested that continued discussion be placed on the next agenda.

UPDATES

Council's action amending the AMC language restricting term length

It was reported that the City Council amended the AMC language that restricted the term length.

Other volunteer opportunities

Hare notified the group that there will be a mini resource fair for the homeless January 27, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Albany Boys and Girls Club in which Marilyn Smith will be participating.

Hispanic Advisory Committee

Cervantes reported that the Committee met today at The Family Tree Relief Nursery to learn about the services they provide. There were two attorneys there that will hear cases involving domestic violence and housing disputes. Cervantes suggested inviting them to a future HRC meeting and the group agreed. Cervantes said that he will contact The Family Tree Relief Nursery to see if they would be willing to speak at a meeting.

The next HAC meeting will be on Tuesday, February 23, at the OSU Centro Cultural Cesar Chavez across from the OSU stadium.

Calendar of Events: 2016

Next Year's event in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. needs to be added to the calendar: Friday, January 13, 2017.

Kislingbury noted that the date for the next Festival Latino could be changing. Cervantes requested that the group revisit the subject in order to keep it accurate on the calendar.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

Kislingbury referenced Hare's announcement of his upcoming retirement and expressed his appreciation to Hare for a job well done. The group agreed. Hare, in turn, thanked the group.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

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ADJOURNMENT

Cervantes adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

*Signature on file*

*Signature on file*

Gina Burrese  
Administrative Assistant

Wes Hare  
City Manager