



APPROVED: September 27, 2016

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)

City Hall, Willamette Room

Tuesday, July 26, 2016

MINUTES

Commissioners present: Javier Cervantes, Graham Kislingbury, Kim Whitley, Denise Hughes-Tafen

Commissioners absent: Chris Equinoa (excused), Tina Dodge Vera (excused)

Staff present: Jorge Salinas, Assistant City Manager/Chief Information Officer; Ed Hodney, Parks & Recreation Director; Katie Nooshazar, Recreation Programs Manager; Lynne Smith, Event & Program Coordinator; Rose Lacey, Recreation Coordinator; Debbi Richards, Recreation Programs Supervisor

Others present: Iris Carrasco, Farhad Nooshazar

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Javier Cervantes called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 28, 2016

MOTION: Graham Kislingbury made a motion to approve the minutes; Denise Hughes-Tafen seconded. Approved 4-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Business from the Public

None.

Update from Festival Latino partnership

The Hispanic Advisory Committee (HAC) is working in partnership with the Parks & Recreation Department. Iris Carrasco said that the partnership has been meeting at least once a month to plan the event along with subcommittees that meet separately. She expressed that it is a work in process with the groups learning each other's communication styles that are very different from one another. The HAC's desire is for everyone at the table to be heard.

Carrasco relayed that the HAC has appreciated the HRC's help with the information table in the past and anticipates their help this year.

Recreation Programs Manager Katie Nooshazar passed out a family activity list for the event (*see agenda file*). Recreation Coordinator Rose Lacey will oversee the activities. Nooshazar explained that their plan is to implement activities that work for both boys and girls and engage interaction from the parents. She then passed out a schedule for the entertainment (*see agenda file*). She explained that there will be two stages, one above and one below to avoid dead air space. They will have traditional Mexican entertainment but have broadened it with other styles to bring in other Latino communities. Nooshazar described it as a strong lineup.

Nooshazar reported on the publicity for the Festival and passed out the flyers announcing the event (*see agenda file*). The flyers will go out to all the stores in downtown as well as others in Albany. The Salsa band, Salsanova, has a huge following and will be sending the flyer out where Salas groups get together. Event & Program Coordinator Lynn Smith is helping to facilitate this. Kislingbury, as a member of the planning committee, is working hard to get the event broadcast on several area radio stations, including Latino ones. The Festival will also be advertised in the *MOM* magazine and the River Rhythms program. Salsanova will play as a teaser for Festival Latino at the Art & Air Festival. The advertising has been greatly expanded from previous years.

Vendor forms have been created in both Spanish and English and will be available on-line at the City website. Nooshazar announced that they sent out invitations to an extensive list for the resource portion of the fair and are beginning to get responses. They are working with members of the community such as Samaritan Health and the Lions Club. There will be a dental van on site. They are talking about doing a series of noninvasive cancer screenings that can be privately preformed in the Senior Center. This will include breast exams. Most of the health screenings will be preregistered. There was discussion regarding the struggle with balance between the festival and the resource fair. The HAC has felt very strongly that the resource fair is an essential part of the festival. Carrasco expressed that traditionally the Festival has been a trifecta of education, entertainment, and health screenings with the anticipated outcome of drawing in another piece of the population. Nooshazar said that it helps people make connections with area resources that they did not know about.

Nooshazar reported they have created an extensive list for sponsorship and grant applications. They received a \$1,000 grant from Linn County Cultural Coalition. Nooshazar said that Tina Dodge Vera was very instrumental in acquiring a \$2,000 grant from the Health Equity Alliance. Home Depot, KLAK Show, and Xtreme GrafX have come on as sponsors. Nooshazar explained that, during the first year of the partnership and until the scope of the event presents itself, it will be difficult to get cash sponsorships.

Recreation Programs Supervisor Debbi Richards passed out both Spanish and English forms for volunteer recruitment (*see agenda file*). Cervantes asked if they had a plan to engage the schools that will be in session at the time of the festival to get the word out. Richards responded that traditionally Carrasco has reached out to the schools and that they provide flyers to Peachtree Montessori. Carrasco added that they have networks with access to the high school leadership groups that will help to spread the word. Nooshazar said they are focusing on how many volunteers are needed in each area to be effective and in which areas they will need bilingual volunteers. Richards and Carrasco will be working with the volunteer committee to identify these needs. Hughes-Tafen suggested reaching out in the *Valley Parent Magazine*. Kislingbury is working on pitching a story to the *Democrat-Herald*. Nooshazar suggested a story on Salsa dancers who are huge in the area.

The food area is being expanded with the idea of recruiting four food vendors that will have the most diverse menus. Nooshazar explained that it is hard to plan when you don't know the numbers. They want the food vendors to be successful. The group expressed their excitement of the expansion with the food and the entertainment. Hodney said they have gone out on a limb recruiting musicians and food. If successful, they can amp it up next year. Success will be determined by community support of the event with a significant growth in attendance. It could be a difficult conversation for the partnership on what constitutes success. They want this event to have the success of the award-winning Summer Sounds and River Rhythms, but it would be problematic for the rather small Parks & Recreation Department to stretch itself out over another sizable event.

On a side note, Kislingbury brought up the lack of security when volunteers hand off the donations collected to one lone, elderly woman waiting just inside the door at the Senior Center during the River Rhythms concerts. Hodney and Nooshazar agreed that they could make the transfer more secure. Discussion followed on security at the Festival in light of the political tension in the country right now. Nooshazar explained the measures they have in place.

Hughes-Tafen relayed that she has received feedback from other minority groups in Albany that Festival Latino is not an event for them. She asked what they could do to make it an event for Albany. Hodney pointed out how they have broadened the event this year to appeal to more people. Cervantes thanked the Parks & Recreation Department and Carrasco, as part of the HAC, for all their hard work and the awesome job they were doing.

PARTICIPATION AT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

Summer Sound concert

Whitley reported that serving ice cream at the July 25 concert went well. Kislingbury will volunteer at the August 1 concert.

River Rhythms concerts

Cervantes reported that it went well greeting people at the July 21 event. The Commissioners confirmed their assigned participation at the upcoming July 28, August 4, and August 11 concerts.

National Night Out event (NNO)

It was reported that Tina Dodge Vera will not be able to accompany Whitley and Hughes-Tafen to the Tudor Way events. Kislingbury confirmed that he and Chris Equinoa will attend the Hill House and Tenth Avenue SW events. Cervantes will study the list to determine which event will make sense for him to attend.

Northwest Art & Air Festival

Nooshazar advised the group to directly contact Recreation Programs Supervisor Debbi Richards for volunteer openings. Talking with Richards will ensure a good fit and that the volunteer's time will not be wasted. Richards passed out the volunteer forms (*see agenda file*).

Festival Latino

Nooshazar expressed her desire for the HRC to take the lead at the welcoming table and have a unified look by wearing matching T-shirts. The group agreed with the idea and requested that an e-mail be sent to the group to acquire their shirt sizes. Salinas and Hodney will look into purchasing the shirts.

UPDATES

Other volunteer opportunities

Cervantes notified the group of an open house for the Jackson Street Youth Services Albany House on Tuesday, August 9.

Linn-Benton Hispanic Advisory Committee (HAC)

It was reported that the HAC had a work group meeting to educate people on voter registration. The meeting was well attended with about 23 people. The meeting was to also include a representative from the Arts Commission, but they were unable to make it. Hodney volunteered to look into having the representative reschedule.

Calendar of Events: 2016

Kislingbury will reconnect with the owners of the Pix Theater regarding the Marin Luther King, Jr., event.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSON

Kislingbury reported that the GAPS Superintendent has meetings on the same night as the HRC and so cannot come to an HRC meeting to discuss equity within the schools and to ask questions about South Albany High School's mascot. Kislingbury will meet with the Superintendent himself and give a report to the group. He requested that the group send him any questions they would like asked. Hughes-Tafen noted that she would still like the Superintendent to meet with the group as a whole. Kislingbury will monitor the Superintendent's Tuesday meeting schedule for any chance openings where he could meet with the HRC.

The group discussed Mental Illness Awareness Month in October. Whitley suggested focusing on the needs of the elderly in regards to mental illness. It was decided to connect with Linn County Mental Health and possibly Cascade West Council of Governments as they relate to senior citizens. Kislingbury made the group aware of the Linn County Mental Health picnic on August 10.

Hodney reported on the status of the Sunrise Park renovations. He passed out a memo that he sent out back in April (*see agenda file*). Nothing has changed since that memo. They are still waiting to hear from the Department of State Lands.

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It looks like they may have the approval they need by the end of August. If all goes well, they can get back into the design process before heavy rains set in; but it most likely will be delayed until next spring. Hodney said they are hesitant to reengage the community until they know what they are dealing with. Cervantes requested that the community hears the reasons for the delays. Kislingbury commented that when he visited the park, he did not feel it looked that bad. Hodney explained that it is not the appearance that they are so concerned with but the accessibility to the park and that the equipment is brought up to current federal guidelines for safety.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, August 23, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Cervantes adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Gina Burrese
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Jorge Salinas
Assistant City Manager/Chief Information Officer