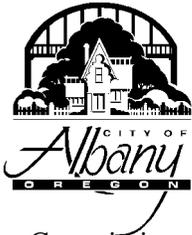


HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)

City Hall, Municipal Court Room

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

MINUTES



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

Commissioners absent: Denise Hughes-Tafen (excused)

Staff present: Jorge Salinas, Assistant City Manager/CIO

Others present: Brad Conners, Crime Prevention Specialist

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Javier Cervantes called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 27, 2016

MOTION: Graham Kislingbury made a motion to approve the minutes; Chris Equinoa seconded. Approved 5-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Business from the Public

None.

Report on National Night Out

Assistant City Manager/CIO Jorge Salinas introduced Brad Conners to the group. Conners explained that he took over in Sandy Roberts' position of Police Community Education Specialist. With Conners extensive police background, the position has transitioned from being one of mainly community education to one of crime prevention. It is the Department's intent to bring on another Community Education Specialist. Conners passed out a National Night Out (NNO) event summary, an NNO brochure, his business card, and cards explaining the Nixle alerts (*see agenda file*). Conners started with the City on June 1. Roberts and Lead Volunteer Connie Erikson had started up the NNO event plans, and then Conners added onto those plans. He pointed out how the NNO brochure was printed up for individual neighborhoods and held specific crime stats for that neighborhood.

Conners reported that 21 Police Officers participated along with the Albany Mayor. The local *Target* store and distribution center helped by providing volunteers and \$630.00 in gift cards. Conners explained how he shifted from issuing door prizes to having officers giving out prizes as random acts of kindness. Included in the event was a food drive for *FISH*. There was enough food collected to fill the back of the Community Service Officer's pickup.

Cervantes asked if the brochures could be done in Spanish. Conners said that it could be done. He explained that for the event, the Department's Spanish speaking Officers were placed in neighborhoods with the highest Latino populations. Conners shared that when residents register with Nixle notification system, they can choose to receive the notifications in Spanish. Conners also shared that he is minimally bilingual and used to work for a department that served an area with a large Hispanic population.

Conners described that the Police Department held a decent presence at Festival Latino with festival goers lining up to interact with them. He informed the group that Coffee with a Cop will continue as a quarterly event. Conners would like to see local businesses to continue hosting the event. Cellar Cat is one downtown business that has expressed interest in hosting the event. Also, the Police Department has started a Business Watch downtown.

The group invited Conners to speak next year at an HRC meeting prior to the National Night Out event.

DEBRIEFS

Community meals

There was no discussion.

GAPS Community Meetings – Bond Discussion

Equinoa attended the meeting held at West Albany High School, and Kislingbury attended the last part of the same meeting. Equinoa reported that the meeting was more of the district sharing their plans rather than of soliciting feedback from the community. The school district described their three-phase plan for remodeling West Albany High School's building. Kislingbury stressed that now would be the time to speak up and express opinions to the school district. The bond measure will be on the May ballot. Equinoa said that suggestions of rebuilding instead of remodeling were negated.

2016 Oregon Conference on Aging

Kim Whitley attended the conference. She reported that the conference was well attended. Information was shared on having healthy communities that foster healthy aging. Whitley said that it was inspiring for people to get involved in elder justice. She recognized several community advocates at the conference.

Fair Housing Law (free workshop)

Equinoa attended the workshop on the 18th. It had a small turnout of about six individuals. The individuals were landlords and not residents seeking to know their rights. Cervantes said that he was surprised by that since he had just received an email from a family that feels they are being discriminated against.

The group did not know how the bilingual workshop on the 20th was attended.

FISH food drive

Kislingbury reported that it was the largest food drive in five or six years. It had a good turnout with volunteers collecting food for over three hours. Kislingbury said there were a great bunch of kids as part of those collecting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Summit on Homelessness

Equinoa and Kislingbury plan on attending.

Mid Valley Stand Down for Homeless Veterans

There was no discussion.

Caregiver Appreciation Day

There was no discussion.

UPDATES

Human Relations Award for Calendar Year 2016

The award was announced to the Hispanic Advisory Committee. No applications have been received yet. Kislingbury suggested using the Facebook group Albany Happenings to get the word out. He volunteered to work with staff to post an announcement on Facebook.

Showing of Selma on Saturday, January 14, 2017

Kislingbury said that he is looking into reserving a few tables at Monkey Fridays for those interested in having a post discussion lunch.

Other volunteer opportunities

No discussion.

Linn-Benton Hispanic Advisory Committee (HAC)

There was no discussion as the group had met with the HAC right before this meeting.

Calendar of Events: 2016

The Mental Health Christmas Dinner on December 12 was announced.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSON

Cervantes asked Salinas if the City had any plans for a grocery store in North Albany. Salinas answered that the City has been working on it for a long time.

Tina Dodge Vera announced that the Library will be recognizing the Mexican holiday Day of the Dead.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, November 22, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Cervantes adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Gina Burrese
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Jorge Salinas
Assistant City Manager/Chief Information Officer