



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION & HISPANIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

City Hall, Municipal Court Room

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

3:00 p.m.

APPROVED: November 22, 2016



MINUTES

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

Human Relations Commissioners absent: Denise Hughes-Tafen (excused)

Hispanic Advisory Committee members present: Dania Samudio, Tammy Skubinna, Maria Solis-Camarena, Maria Torres Andrade, Yesenia Gutierrez, Ariana Villegas, Raquel Miller, Joyce Thompson Graham

Staff present: Jorge Salinas, Assistant City Manager/CIO; Katie Nooshazar, Recreation Programs Manager; Lynne Smith, Event & Program Coordinator; Rose Lacey, Recreation Coordinator; Anj Brown, Resource Development Coordinator

Others present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Human Relations Commission (HRC) Chair Javier Cervantes called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Introductions

Cervantes welcomed the HAC members and had everyone introduce themselves, starting with the Commission.

Sharing of respective missions and focus

Tammy Skubinna and Dania Samudio shared about the HAC. They exist to be a link between the Hispanics and area organizations. The committee has been around for over 20 years and serves to be a voice for the Hispanic community.

Cervantes shared the mission of the HRC and the events that the Commission has been involved in. Equinoa gave an overview of the Sunrise Park project. Cervantes then announced that the HRC are taking applications for this year's Human Relations Award. Skubinna requested that an email with the HRC nomination form be sent to Committee member Rosa Mendez.

Cervantes asked how the HRC could support the HAC. Skubinna expressed that it would be beneficial for the HRC to invite Senator Sara Gelsler to an HRC meeting. The HAC shared their concerns with Senator Gelsler, and Skubinna said that the Senator needs to hear the concerns for Albany. Whitley questioned whether it was appropriate for the HRC to host an elected official. Yesenia Gutierrez asked how the groups could encourage Linn and Benton Counties to share information with each other regarding the needs of the communities and what needs to be worked on. Cervantes suggested a needs assessment. Kislingbury asked the HAC how their meetings are publicized to the community. Skubinna responded that they could work on their public relations. She explained that they meet at different locations, and they will post the meeting announcement at those locations.

Cervantes asked what the two groups could work on for further exploration. He mentioned the City's efforts on their Limited English Proficiency Plan. Assistant City Manager/CIO Jorge Salinas explained that the City is trying to address and include translation in their relations with the public. He shared that the Fire Department has done a tremendous job on translating their documents.

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There was additional discussion on a needs assessment with Tina Dodge Vera sharing about the one conducted in the past through the education system and how it's important to use focus groups to facilitate assessments. She would love to do one for Albany. Equinoa asked if the partnership with the U of O could be used for an assessment. It was explained that the partnership has established projects that coincide with the University's classes. Recreation Programs Manager Katie Nooshazar said that Parks & Recreation Director Ed Hodney put in for a sustainability study for the underserved populations, but she does not know if it went through. Cervantes read an email he received from a U of O student that said the Community Cultural Development class he was in was helping the City of Albany do their Cultural inventory, and he wanted to ask Cervantes questions regarding the Latino community (*see agenda file*).

Follow-up on 2016 Festival Latino

The Parks & Recreation Department provided a preliminary summary of the event from their perspective (*see agenda file*). The summary includes an overview of the expansion, efforts made, and accomplishments. There will be a debriefing meeting with the planning committee tomorrow where feedback can be given on what went well and what didn't. Cervantes asked for feedback now from anyone that would not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow. Some of the feedback mentioned was that the publicity was effective, the layout improved, the event better organized, and the music great. The food was noted to be good with a better selection, but some said it was expensive. A passport system was suggested for next year. There was discussion on changing the date of the event. Nooshazar noted that the current time of year for the event is difficult for the Parks & Recreation Department since they are just wrapping up the Northwest Art and Air event.

Cervantes thanked the Parks & Recreation Department for their partnership and embracing this part of the community. He also thanked the HAC for their work. Skubinna shared that she wrote a letter to the editor to thank the Parks & Recreation Department.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GAPS Community Meeting – bond discussion

No discussion.

Event for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

Kislingbury explained the event planned at the Pix Theater and said that there will not be a charge for the movie but there would be for the concessions. He invited the audience to participate as readers to read a Martin Luther King, Jr., speech at the event.

2016 Human Relations Award

Cervantes reminded the group that applications are out and available to the public. He encouraged people to go to the website and fill one out.

Kim Whitley announced the Annual Summit on Homelessness.

Cervantes invited everyone to the Freedom of Expression (When I Agree With It) conversation at noon tomorrow at LBCC.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, April 25, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Cervantes adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Gina Burrese
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Jorge Salinas
Assistant City Manager/Chief Information Officer