

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

Thursday, January 28, 2010

Members:

Lee Bixson
Craig Blomberg
Arthur Clinton
Nico De Anda-Scaia
Justin Kudo (Vice Chair)
Najme Minhaj (Chair)
Ann Privateer
J Jesus Leyva (Alternate)

Ex Officio Members:

Saraf Nawar (Student)
John Pamperin (Faith-based)
Rahim Reed (UCD)
Lt. Tom Waltz (Police Dept)
Vacant (ASUCD)
Pamela Mari/Mel Lewis
(DJUSD)

Council Liaisons:

Stephen Souza
Lamar Heystek (Alternate)

Staff

Kelly Stachowicz, City

I. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

Members Present: Bixson, Blomberg, Clinton, De Anda-Scaia, Minhaj, Privateer, Leyva

Members Absent: Kudo

Ex Officio Members Present: Nawar (until 7:30), Pamperin, Waltz (until 8:00), Reed

Blomberg moved and Clinton seconded a motion to approve agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes –

Clinton moved and Bixson seconded, a motion of approve the minutes of November 19, 2009.

Motion passed 4-0-3, with Blomberg, Leyva and Minhaj abstaining, as they were not present at the November meeting.

III. Public Comment

Peter Lust spoke to the Commission about the discrimination he felt he was subject to at his church and expressed his concern about hate crimes/incidents. Explained he felt persecuted but he appreciated having the Commission to go to listen to his concerns. Pamperin, as the Faith-based representative on the Commission, volunteered to talk to the pastor at Mr. Lust's church. Lt. Waltz provided Mr. Lust with his contact information, in case Mr. Lust decides he wants to speak with police.

IV. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

Blomberg shared that KDRT would be hosting its annual concerts at Oddfellows on Feb 13 and March 13.

Clinton congratulated Commissioner Nawar on her recent award. Clinton also shared the op-ed piece in the Enterprise related to DACHA and asked if this was an issue the Commission should be looking into or suggest the Grand Jury look into. Stachowicz explained that affordable housing is the purview of the Social Services Commission but that, regardless, the Council was aware of the DACHA issue(s) and would be discussing it further at future meetings. Blomberg

suggested perhaps the Commission could have a future conversation regarding affordable housing.

Privateer relayed that she attended the Israel panel at the Methodist church.

Pamperin reported he gave a talk at Cal Aggie Christian Association.

Reed reported he attended showing of "From Community to the Classroom" at the Crest and encouraged the HRC to host a showing of the film. Reed also reported UC Davis awarded the "Chancellor Achievement Award for the Community" to Reverend Kristen Stoneking.

V. Council Communications and Staff Announcements

Lt. Waltz explained there were no hate crimes but did give an update on a gay male who was targeted via a dating website. Also explained the next Citizen's Academy started February 17 and will run through April 7.

Stachowicz said next Month (February) will be the annual election for Chair and Vice Chair of the commission.

VI. Discussion/Action Items

A. Initial Review and Discussion of Diversity and Discrimination Survey

Stachowicz explained the initial results of the survey, which received over 350 responses. Basic highlights include the following:

- Over ¾ of respondents feel UC Davis events and activities foster diversity in the community.*
- Individual comments varied widely throughout the survey, with some respondents citing severe concerns and others not at all.*
- Approximately 40% of the respondents did not feel they had experienced discrimination, but the remaining 60% feel they had been discriminated against within the past year. Of those who have felt discrimination, over half felt it was because of ethnicity or race.*
- Over half of those who have felt discrimination responded they experienced it in a Davis Business Establishment. About 8% of the respondents to this question wrote in some form of government/public sector they felt discriminated against them.*
- Of those who have felt discrimination, the highest percentages felt discriminated against by local business, police, and/or employers/co-workers. The least felt discriminated against by medial providers.*
- Stachowicz acknowledged a few errors and lessons learned in the survey. Some of the errors were corrected early on in the survey if the changes did not affect the integrity of the survey.*

Blomberg and Clinton expressed interest in focus groups.

Reed suggested the issues of business discrimination reflect the same types of feedback he receives on campus. The business issues are constant and problematic. He indicated the business climate in Davis is really difficult and maybe Commission could use this survey to look at ways businesses could improve for everyone. He also suggested class issues come out somewhat in the survey.

Minhaj noted there is significant discrimination in each category

VII. Updates

- A. *Tree Planting - Stachowicz will return at the February meeting with a proposed date for the rescheduled Middle East tree planting. She explained she will need to take the item first to the Council.*
- B. *UNAFF Traveling Film Festival – Stachowicz explained the UNAFF Traveling Film Festival will be held Sunday April 18 at the Varsity. Blomberg advocated for having a theme to help unify the films and not to have any films that are overly dismal.*
- C. *2010 Cesar Chavez Celebration – Leyva, de Anda, Blomberg and Nawar will participate in the Cesar Chavez Celebration planning. Staff will set up a meeting with the subcommittee prior to the next Commission meeting.*

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.