

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

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 (6:30)

Members Present: Bixson, Blomberg, De Anda, Kudo, Privateer, Leyva
Voting Members Absent: Clinton, Minhaj

Kudo called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. Blomberg moved and Leyva seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes – July 23, 2009

Blomberg moved and Kudo seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment -

There was no public comment.

IV. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

Privateer commented she attended the Muslim “Break the Fast” Iftar but no city representatives were in attendance. Asked that Commissioners receive information about the event in the future.

V. Council Communications and Staff Announcements

Stachowicz provided an update on the efforts to address homeless issues, particularly in the downtown area, as well as the likelihood of cold weather shelters this winter. At the request of Commissioner Blomberg, Stachowicz explained the city’s Open Container Ordinance and how it might affect the homeless population. Blomberg replied that the homeless coming into the ER recently seem to be calmer than before. Suggested that perhaps this is a result of good police interactions and treatment.

Lt. Waltz explained the City did not have any hate crimes or incidents since the last meeting. Also reviewed the uptick in home burglaries the city has seen over the past couple of weeks. Urges Commissioners to communicate with neighbors, set up neighborhood watches and take other preventative measures.

VI. Discussion/Action Items

A. Diversity and Discrimination Report and Potential Survey

Stachowicz explained the different drafts of the survey and asked for the Commission's input. Commissioners wanted the survey to be as quantifiable as possible but noted the limitations when asking for information more subjective in nature. Commission worked to streamline the survey so that it was short enough people would be likely to take it, was not leading or repetitive, and focused on the survey-takers own experiences. Commissioners made several comments about wording, which staff will incorporate into the final survey. The Commission also commented that they wanted the survey to be as simple and easy to read as possible.

Blomberg notes that the survey would not be 100% scientific, in large part because the respondents are self-selected, but that the type of information the Commission hoped to receive would still be valuable.

The Commission noted that Davis Neighbors Night Out would be a perfect way to distribute the survey initially. Davis Neighbors Night Out is October 11, prior to the next Commission meeting. The Commission also recommended the survey be placed online, accessible from the City's website.

Several Commissioners questioned the usefulness of the section addressing diversity in Davis. No consensus was reached on how to address that section, but the Commission authorized a subcommittee to work with staff on the survey to make decisions on the survey and finalize it so that it could be distributed at Davis Neighbors Night Out. Subcommittee consisted of Blomberg, Kudo and Pamperin.

Additional Discussion Items:

Based on time, the Commission decided to postpone discussion of the report, the MLK Day Subcommittee and the Tree Planting Project until the October meeting.

VIII. Adjourn

Kudo adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.