

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

Thursday, November 19, 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, Clinton, deAnda Scaia, Kudo, Privateer
Voting Members Absent: Blomberg, Leyva, Minhaj*

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

II. Approval of Minutes – September 24, 2009 and October 22, 2009

Privateer moved and De Anda seconded, the approval of the September and the October minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment -

There was no public comment.

IV. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

- *Privateer shared that she had read a book “Healing Israel/Palestine” and would let people borrow it if interested.*
- *Kudo reported he received an invitation to an American Israeli PAC meeting in Sacramento in December.*
- *De Anda shared information about Posadas Navidena on November 24 on campus. Will send Commissioners information.*

V. Council Communications and Staff Announcements

Council Liaison Lamar Heystek thanked the Commission for its work, specifically on the current Diversity and Discrimination Survey. He expressed interest in the results of that survey being shared with Council during regular session.

VI. Discussion/Action Items

- C. Diversity and Discrimination Report (Survey)
Stachowicz reported out on the status of the survey, which is currently open to the public. In addition to being available online, hard copies of the survey have been distributed to affordable housing complexes in Davis, located in public spots and provided to members of the public (who have requested copies to distribute among their friends and colleagues).

Stachowicz reported that the survey is currently scheduled to close November 30, 2009. She requested input from the Commission as to whether they wanted to stay with that end date or extend it. The Commission agreed by consensus to maintain the November 30 close date.

A. DJUSD Update on Achievement Gap and Budget Situation

Pam Mari, Director of Student Services for DJUSD, gave a presentation on the Achievement Gap progress. The District still has a gap in achievement, most pointedly for low socio-economic kids. The State is working on a statewide digital records system which will automatically tie in students receiving public assistance to the free/reduced price lunch program. This is one way to ensure kids get services they need without attaching a stigma.

Ms. Mari shared information about the BRIDGE program, which is serving 170 students at 4 sites. Although not technically part of DJUSD, the results are starting to show.

DJUSD is also taking what was learned at the Community Conversation and through the Task Force and trying to implement recommendations/programs.

Each principal is required to learn which kids are “in the gap” within nine weeks. Principals must then explain that they are doing for each child identified.

Ms. Mari also explained that the City was working to build in teen programming in the schools.

S. Nawar reported that DHS Climate Committee was focusing on the achievement gap and the Race and Social Justice class will have a forum this winter, replicating the Community Conversation’s model.

Ms. Mari also touched on the school district’s budget, which will need significant cuts.

B. Discussion of Potential Ethnic Event

Held over until Commission can review and discuss survey results

C. UNAFF Traveling Film Festival

Privateer and De Anda volunteered to assist.

VII. Updates

• Middle East Tree Planting

Stachowicz provided update and explained the tree planting had been postponed from the November 14 date. The Historic Resource Management Commission felt that staff could administratively approve tree plantings at the Depot. One HRMC member made the suggestion that the trees be planted at Barovetto Park. Staff also suggested an alternate

location of City Hall. The Commission, by consensus, prioritized their location preferences first for the Depot location and second for the City Hall location.

- **2010 Martin Luther King Day**
Privateer shared information about an essay contest in Cleveland Heights with a theme of "Stop the Hate." Commissioners are interested in having an essay contest, although no consensus on theme or whether there should be a cash prize.

VIII. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.