



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES
Thursday, July 25, 2013

I. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

Members Present:

C Blomberg, Y. Clinton, N. Ellstrand, D. Greenwald, J. Plank, A. Privateer (arr. 7:00), J. Selwyn (Arr. 6:50), T. Yilma, K. Snow, H. Anker, L. Friedman

Agenda approved by consensus.

II. Approval of Minutes –June 27, 2013

C. Blomberg moved, seconded by Y. Clinton, approval of the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment and Correspondence –

Gloria Partida – reported that Phoenix Coalition wanted to bring forward a resolution to talk about what kind of community we are (as relates to hate crimes). Will bring to August meeting. Commission agreed by consensus to place item on August agenda.

Stachowicz noted Day of Fasting flyer.

IV. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

D Greenwald – Sunday, July 28 Vanguard hosting Courtwatch meeting with Sheriff Ed Prieto at Holy Rosary Pastoral Center 5-7pm.

Y. Clinton – Jann Murray-Garcia and Calvin Handy called meeting to discuss community response to Zimmerman verdict/Trayvon Martin killing. Participants expressed concerns about youth safety and involved the youth who were present, and spoke about next steps. People can sign up to be white allies. Youth wanted to have Trayvon Martin Empathy March at beginning of school year and hold assembly to address racism. Wanted parents to gather together and discuss issues that affect their kids (of all colors).

Discussion about having multiple student representatives, in particular a student from Black Student Union. Commission will hold off on agendaizing discussion until after start of school year.

N. Ellstrand – Elk Grove having multi-cultural festival on August 24 from 10-6. UC Davis holding series of monologues called Asian Voices. Next one is August 1 at 7pm in Art Annex 107.

J. Selwyn – Has been accepted to a graduate program and is resigning from the commission. This is her last meeting.

V. Council Communications and Staff Announcements

H. Anker is leaving to go to college and this is his last meeting.

VI. Discussion Items

1. Same sex marriage resolution –

C. Blomberg moved, with second by D. Greenwald to forward same sex marriage resolution to Council as is with a recommendation for Council to approve the resolution at their next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

2. DJUSD Bullying and Climate Policies

Kate Snow, DJUSD Climate Coordinator, gave overview on DJUSD policy for bullying. The policy is different than changing people's behavior. The bar for bullying is a high bar: behavior must be proven to be persistent, injurious, and affect student's ability to get an education. However, there is different understanding for what is appropriate behavior in the District.

AB 9 (Seth's Law) added to existing bullying policy by increasing District's requirement to respond to bullying behavior. District is now required that any adult on a campus who witnesses bullying is required to intervene.

District has spent the last year determining where they have policies that address bullying, where they have gaps, etc. There is a specific set of protocols for administrators to follow regarding bullying.

Goal to have elementary school counselors at every site (not funded solely by PTA monies).

Climate Committees – these have received less attention in the past few years, so District will be doing more with Climate Committees this coming academic year. District also looking into how it can expand restorative justice work and training in the coming year. A few staff have received some restorative justice training already.

This past year there has been a great increase in crisis counseling and District has increased number of hours for crisis counselors. Snow suggests that often, the need for counseling happens because a relationship has ended, but otherwise not sure why there has been such an increase in past year.

A Privateer wants to know what District doing to prevent bullying and other problems from happening? Snow explained that high schools have not historically done therapeutic counseling...they have done academic counseling and testing. Davis values autonomy in District, so focus can differ school to school. Trying to build more appropriate culture district-wide.

Snow notes the Biannual Healthy Kids Survey asks some climate questions. Are there trends? Climate gap parallels achievement gap...white and Asian students tend to feel more connected to their schools.

C. Blomberg: any thoughts on how commission or city can partner more effectively with District? Snow responded: any efforts within city to support kids, parents, kids of color, are

helpful. Continued communication will help maximize resources. Blomberg noted that having people of color in leadership positions is important. T. Yilma noted that students of color value people of color (adults and mentors) in the school.

Diane Evans – need to build community among student body. Perhaps commission can help.

Snow shared that Parent University pools resources and brings speakers to the community. Have not yet brought speaker who would speak to issues of diversity, etc. Perhaps there is role here for commission or city.

D. Greenwald – spent time talking with peers of Daniel Marsh. Frustrated by communication from Superintendent and not getting information from Board members.. There are kids who need help and are not getting it and it's not evident how to get help for certain youth. He has heard stories of unreported sexual assaults. Snow noted lack of resources for mental illness and kids at risk – there are not enough resources to serve anyone well.

Commission agreed to ask Snow to provide another update in the fall.

3. Breaking the Silence of Racism Follow Up -

D. Greenwald: Police Community Mediation Subcommittee (Aaronson, D. Evans, Pytel, Greenwald, Ellstrand) met and focused on details of how to go forward with some type of mediation. They propose a five-person community panel, a five-person police panel and two facilitators. Diane Evans, Malik Benett, Yvonne Clinton Mazalewski, Carlos Matos, Cecilia Greenwald picked by D. Greenwald as community members. The Police Department will determine its representatives. The Subcommittee met with Elvia Garcia Ayala, who put in offer for facilitation and rough framework for process. Concurrence that there should be more information of what the framework would be and questions about whether there are other people who might be available for this.

Greenwald would like approval from commission to continue going forward.

Need to articulate outcomes for process. Greenwald suggests subcommittee clarify what is wanted to flesh out the activity.

C. Blomberg - this proposal sets us back and gets us off track.

Greenwald – end game needs to explain how this will translate to next, bigger steps for community. If process works, then could possibly expand to other groups. Maybe tap into Neighborhood Court Program for future mediations. This is an opportunity.

C. Blomberg moved, with second by J. Plank to authorize the subcommittee to continue to work on this project and go forward. Motion passed unanimously.

Commission discussed date for fall forum and decided on the first full weekend of December (Saturday December 7, 2013). Requested that a planning discussion be placed on the agenda for August.

VII. Updates

1. Anti-Hate Crime Subcommittee Report –

The subcommittee (Ellstrand, Selwyn, Greenwald) deferred to the Phoenix Coalition, which has developed to address hate issues and discrimination in the community. Gloria Partida explained the group has planned a retreat for August 11 to focus on goals and also plan a fall event. They want to address anti-bullying and counselor situation in the school system first. They also want to set aside the week before I-House multi-cultural event to share thoughts with the community about relevant issues. They want to interface with other groups and see sustainable change. They are looking for an organization with 501(c)3 status who would sponsor them so they can fundraise.

L. Friedman wants to coordinate with other groups and wants Davis to be proactive. NIOT (Not In Our Town) and Not In Our Schools (NIOS) have programs on anti-bullying and anti-hate.

2. Family Court –

Greenwald held meeting in May, hearing from people sharing their experiences and did some research on judges. Yilma noted that many families suffering, particularly those who are voiceless and can't do anything. Yilma will continue to advocate against the family court judge who is unfair, etc.

Commission requested that yearly calendar be brought back at August meeting.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.