



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

Thursday, August 22, 2013

I. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

Members Present: C. Blomberg, Y. Clinton, N. Ellstrand, D. Greenwald, J. Plank, A Privateer, T Yilma, L. Friedman, K. Snow, D. Pytel

Members Absent: None

C. Blomberg moved, with second by Y. Clinton, approval of agenda. Agenda approved unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes –July 25, 2013

D. Greenwald moved, seconded by J. Plank, approval of the minutes. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. Public Comment and Correspondence

There was no public comment.

IV. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

T. Yilma: Will be having a meeting regarding the Trayvon Martin situation.

D. Greenwald: Courtwatch meeting Sunday 5:15 at Davis Library. Met new principal of Davis High School and suggested he come to September meeting.

L. Friedman: Will be a ringing of bells to commemorate 50th Anniversary MLK speech.

Y. Clinton: reception 5 pm (8/26) for principal at Davis High School

N. Ellstrand: Elk Grove multi-cultural festival Saturday (8/24) in Elk Grove Park. Also, Equity Seminar on October 19 about diversity, discrimination, and youth incarceration, at UCD conference center.

V. Council Communications and Staff Announcements

K. Stachowicz:

1. City Council will have the Same Sex Marriage Resolution on their consent calendar on August 27.

2. The California Association of Human Relations Organization will be hosting a conference in San Francisco in September.

3. Shared information about Brown Act, including violation of Brown Act related to proposed resolution in Discussion Item VI. 1. Determined that more than a majority of commissioners did not respond to or participate in discussion about resolution. Phoenix Coalition will share resolution with Commission later in the meeting.

VI. Discussion Items

1. Phoenix Coalition Update, Community Group Letter and Proposed Resolution

Gloria Partida - Phoenix Coalition – Coalition held retreat August 11. Wanted to bring forward an anti-hate resolution(shared draft resolution) and have a letter planned to community groups. Want to work with the schools on anti-bullying campaign, do a fall fun-run, a film with a discussion, other events.

Yilma – if successful, how does it assist a victim? What is practical aspect?

Ellstrand – resolution is meant as kick-off to Phoenix Coalition mission and activities.

Discussion ensued about wording of resolution, including references to restorative justice, and what authorities the City Council has (and does not have). Gloria Partida clarified that Phoenix Coalition is not planning on taking on a restorative justice activities.

Greenwald moved, with second by Blomberg, that the commission send suggestions back to Phoenix Coalition, which could return in September with changes. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Blomberg, Clinton, Greenwald, Plank, Privateer, Yilma

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Ellstrand

2. Juneteenth Resolution Discussion –

Diane Evans: wants a twin holiday to July 4th and heightened recognition that Juneteenth is the “independence day” for those who were formerly slaves. Wants a resolution.

Ellstrand acknowledges importance of Juneteenth but acknowledges that there was still backlash to emancipation and there is still discrimination. Juneteenth only recognizes one group so would support something more like a Davis Diversity Day to be inclusive to all. Diane Evans replied that it is different for Blacks who were enslaved.

K. Snow : City could not put equal resources into July 4th. Wonders if city could recognize Juneteenth types of issues as part of July 4th. Commissioners suggested things like having a percentage of funds from July 4th go to Juneteenth, including information about Juneteenth on July 4th and having a group interested in pursuing Juneteenth raise funds for itself.

Privateer moved, with second by Plank, to recommend the City have Frederick Douglass’ speech incorporated into the July 4th celebration in the future. The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Blomberg, Clinton, Plank, Privateer

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Greenwald, Yilma

3. Breaking the Silence of Racism Follow Up -

a. Update from Police Mediation Subcommittee (Ellstrand, Greenwald) on potential mediation efforts

Greenwald and Diane Evans discussed proposal from Elvia Garcia-Ayala.

Blomberg moved, with second from Privateer, to authorize the subcommittee to proceed with the dialogue process. Vote passed unanimously.

b. Continue planning for December 7, 2013 forum – Subcommittee (Ellstrand, Greenwald, Clinton) will meet and prepare information to bring back at September meeting.

4. 2013-2014 Calendar Review and Discussion

C Blomberg questioned update to Diversity and Discrimination Report. Fold update to report and measuring racial climate?

Commission agreed to discuss in September.

VII. Updates

1. Restorative Justice Subcommittee (Plank, Greenwald) – Commission agreed to discuss whether to continue subcommittee or put it on hold. – Commission agreed to remove from agenda for next month.

2. Anti-Hate Crime Subcommittee Report – Subcommittee (Ellstrand, Greenwald) explained that the Phoenix Coalition will report out next month.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.