



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES
Thursday, October 24, 2013

I. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

Meeting opened at 6:31pm

Members Present: Blomberg, Clinton, Ellstrand, Plank, Privateer, Yilma, Friedman,

Members Absent: Greenwald

C Blomberg moved, with second by J. Plank, approval of agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes –September 26, 2013

J Plank moved, with a second by T. Yilma, approval of the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment and Correspondence –

None.

Mariah Ferris, Da Vinci High School Student: introduced herself, interning with Judith MacBrine of The Mirror Group.

Diane Evans: Would like to have Get on the Bus group at a future meeting.

IV. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

N Ellstrand: October 28, 5-7pm – Cross Cultural Center Understanding Immigration Reform. Then at 6pm on October 29 - “Identity Crisis: What Does It Mean to Be American?”

V. Council Communications and Staff Announcements

Stachowicz: hate resolution will go to City Council with approved September minutes...likely in November. November and December commission meetings will be scheduled for the third Thursday of the month, since the regular meeting time falls during holiday closures.

VI. Discussion Items

1. Juneteenth –

Stachowicz: Diane Evans prepared a resolution in support of Juneteenth. Staff responded with proposed revisions. Main issues are that staff cannot recommend Juneteenth as an official city holiday nor can staff recommend that Council require anything at non-city events.

Commission discussed options. Diane Evans comfortable that, if information about the fact that slaves were still enslaved on July 4th, progress is being made. Also encourages recognizing groups that are still enslaved.

Yilma would like to have an agenda item to look at serious issues, not just celebrations.

Privateer – education has to start in the schools. Shared “no smoking” curriculum as being effective. Same type of information about racism needs to be shared in the schools.

N. Ellstrand moved, with a second by C. Blomberg, approval of the staff-revised resolution with the following changes:

-Separate out encouragement wording from the July 4th bullet. Include in July 4th bullet only what the City will include in its event.

- Include “recognition of a modern day enslaved group and ways to support their freedom” in the “encourage the people of Davis” bullet.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Breaking the Silence of Racism Follow Up

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

Judith MacBrine has had initial conversation with Pytel and Greenwald. Had initial conversation with community group. Will have up to three conversations with both groups. Diane Evans: two outcomes – having a safe place to confront people who have different opinions as you do. Police hope it will turn into a program to use to teach others. Blomberg – important to communicate to the community once initial conversations take place.

b. Continue planning for December 7, 2013 forum

N Ellstrand – reported out on two meetings of the Planning Subcommittee (Ellstrand, Clinton, Greenwald, Friedman ex officio). Shared overview of structure: panel, community reports, citizen reports. Want to have letter out by next week. Group will draft letter. Still looking for facilitator – group has several suggestions: Jann Murray-Garcia, Gloria Rodriguez, Judith Plank, David Greenwald

Still trying to determine title...Breaking the Silence 2: need a tagline (bringing positive, including hate or problems) Ann Privateer suggests “Attracting Equality.” Ellstrand: “Overcoming Oppression, Promoting Inclusion” Diane Evans “Promoting Inclusion.” Subcommittee will finalize.

Yilma: wants a system to assess the impact or success efforts. Would like some sort of metrics.

Discussion on the structure of the forum and panel members.

Blomberg: how communicate the event? Possible methods include City means, Sandy outreach, Vanguard, personal interaction, Facebook event, list from last year (Kelly send out invite to people from last year), Varsity...

Diane Evans will contact Sandy Holman for Facilitator ideas.

3. 2013-2014 Calendar Review and Workplan Discussion –

Commission reviewed the calendar and workplan and made the following comments:

- Add Police-Community Dialogue as “Policy”*
- Yilma wants to see more Blacks at the MLK event.*
- Yilma wants to see real change at events.*
- Diane Evans suggests reaching out to community groups.*

- *Ellstrand – Anything for Asian Pacific Islander?*
- *Blomberg – measuring climate: polarized, disconnected, pleasant, connected, engaged. Would like to put some effort into creating a racial climate index. Would also like a timeline for issues and responses.*
- *Yilma – would like to be able to facilitate complaints and concerns...would be measurable. Would like to see group make a statement that we cannot afford to have racist groups, such as courts.*

Stachowicz will revise and bring back to group at next meeting.

4. Discussion of Proposed UC Davis Police Oversight Board –

Stachowicz suggests group read articles. Rahim will present next meeting

5. 2014 MLK Planning Subcommittee –

Subcommittee has started work.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.