



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Community Chambers Conference Room, 23 Russell Blvd.

6:30 pm

I. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

Present: Clinton, Ellstrand, Greenwald, Plank, Yilma, Friedman (ex officio), Snow (ex officio)
Absent: Privateer

Greenwald moved, with second by Clinton, approval of agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes –November 21, 2013

Greenwald moved, with second by Plank, approval of minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment and Correspondence -

Diane Evans – District Attorney’s Community Forum will be February 20 (7pm) at the library in West Sacramento. Lisa Ray will be guest speaker. Will have victim and offender to share stories.

Gloria Partida – would like for the Commission to consider co-sponsoring a filming of The Laramie Project. Will put this topic on a future agenda.

IV. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

Greenwald expressed the following concerns:

- 1. Breaking the Silence discussion at last meeting veered off topic. Commission needs to consider better structure to meetings and keep conversation on topic to manage the meetings better to enable us to get through items. Also need to differentiate between commissioners and members of the public.*
- 2. Need to remember to abide by the Brown Act, especially in emails.*
- 3. Would like to have more commissioners attend Commission events.*

Yilma: would like Commission to take up family court.

Plank: wants to make sure that people are kind and that commission sets clear boundaries.

Clinton and Ellstrand: need to set time limit for public comment.

Ellstrand: Commission minutes need to be online. Also need to fill vacancies.

V. Council Communications and Staff Announcements

Stachowicz: swastika etched in gravel at Holmes. No direct victim and no other information at this time.

Frerichs: thanked Commission for invitation to Breaking the Silence and for commission service to the city. Explained the new interview process for commissions.

VI. Discussion Items

1. Breaking the Silence of Racism Follow Up

- a. Update from Police Mediation Subcommittee: Greenwald: Mediation efforts continue, with next meeting January 10. Participants feel encouraged. Could be good process for future.*

b. Breaking the Silence December 7, 2013 Debrief

Greenwald: about 50 people attended. Would like to see more. Liked format in terms of what was going on in the community. Subject matter could be more in-depth. Need to consider ways to make it dynamic like in 2012. Would like to see victim and offender sit across from each other and talk to one another.

Ellstrand: glad to see some students. Had some good feedback from participants who said it was helpful to know how to get involved beyond university. Might consider changing the date to increase and diversify audience. Need to work on outreach. Format didn't encourage people to talk until the end.

Gloria Partida: consider cards to allow people to write down their stories if they don't want to talk.

Diane Evans: this program institutionalized the ability for the public to be heard. Believes the community grass roots aspect new but grass roots individuals did not come out. Consider changes to format to allow for more inclusivity.

Ellstrand would like to create subcommittee soon: Clinton, Greenwald, Ellstrand, Friedman, Phoenix Coalition, Diane Evans.

Snow: some people will come to listen and learn and not necessarily expect to speak. Take 3 or 4 key issues and focus the next event around that

2. 2014 MLK Planning Subcommittee

Plank: commission needs to vote on speaker for MLK event and panel.

Yilma expressed frustration at process. Verbally resigned from commission and left meeting.

Greenwald: suggests Plank contact speaker and Stachowicz contact panel. Volunteers to be on revised subcommittee.

Ellstrand will be on subcommittee too.

Greenwald moved, with second by Plank, to pursue the speaker from the Southern Poverty Law Center. Motion passed unanimously.

Greenwald moved, with second by Ellstrand, to ask staff to follow up with panel members for education of minority students and ensure that Chancellor's Office notified that Chancellor does not need to participate.

Commission discussed potential panel members: James Hildreth, Bill Jackson, Winfred Roberson, Cruz Reynoso, and a few students (high school and college age).

Commission discussed purpose of panel. Snow noted panel needs to respond to a challenge or an issue. Commission discussed potential candidates for a panel.

Greenwald removed his original motion and made a substitute motion, seconded by Plank for staff to ensure that the Chancellor's Office notified that the Chancellor was not participating and to invite Hildreth, Jackson, Roberson and two other panel members, with at least one being female and at least one being a student. The focus of the panel will be education of African American youth. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Mosaic Café – *Held over to future meeting.*

4. Yolo District Attorney's DUI Program – *Held over to future meeting.*

VII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.