



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, January 23, 2014

I. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

Members Present: Clinton, Ellstrand, Greenwald, Plank, Privateer, Snow (ex officio), Friedman (ex officio), Reed (ex officio)

Members Absent: none

II. Approval of Minutes –December 19, 2013

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

III. Public Comment and Correspondence –

Diane Evans – Restorative Justice Forum with Lisa Ray.

Chris, local Davis resident - Incident at Davis Community Church where female was assaulted but not reported. Homeless residents policing themselves. Would like a porta-potty placed on the property at 1111 H Street and has spoken with Bill Pride about it. Also bushes cleared away at old bathroom site in Central Park...likes the idea of having a second set of bathrooms there.

IV. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

Greenwald – February 23 in West Sacramento, 5pm at Holy Cross Auditorium, Vanguard Courtwatch Council will hold panel discussion on police relations.

Friedman – Celebration of Abraham this Sunday at St. James

Ellstrand – Wednesday February 5 – What is Obamacare/Affordable Care Act – UC Davis Student Community Center Multipurpose Room. Also Black Family Week February 24-28 on UC Davis campus. During entire month of February, Black History month.

V. Council Communications and Staff Announcements

None.

VI. Discussion Items

1. Breaking the Silence of Racism

a. Update from Police Mediation Subcommittee on mediation efforts

Clinton: group has made progress and will be prepared to make report soon. Looking at some positive interactions between police and community. Have two left scheduled for February.

b. Update from Breaking the Silence of Racism Subcommittee (Ellstrand, Greenwald, Clinton) – Recommendations for 2015

Ellstrand: group planning for next year's event (February 28, 2015). Group wants to promote it early and frequently, provide harder hitting questions, have a translator well in advance, hold a poster session prior so people can learn about resources, hold in Community Chambers. Make publicity clearer.

Diane Evans – good to have controversial element to the meeting.

2. 2014 Martin Luther King Jr Celebration Review –

Respectable crowd although would have liked more people. Did not have the same number of small children. Concern that still not attracting local African-American members of the community. Suggestion to look for community leaders who would bring their families, players, etc.

Ellstrand noted conflict with Sacramento MLK march...maybe consider changing the time of the event.

Consider including Korematsu Oral Language children and a Passing the Baton for next year.

Greenwald noted how white MLK Celebration has become. Also noted that Blacks who previously came to event no longer come. Still thinks we need to reconnect to community.

Commission agreed that panel discussion was high quality.

Snow feels that event is really "tame". Feels she has learned from UC Davis students. Wants to hear something inspirational. Feels gentle and soft. No one brought up what we lost in civil rights rulings this past year. Did not like the student presentation. Need to vet what the students are presenting.

Diane Evans liked student presentation.

Ellstrand: Commission all white so need to be mindful of privilege. Also need to consider whether event is about African Americans or about people of color. Need to start much earlier to make a successful program.

Greenwald – agrees with Snow's comments. Need to plan earlier- consider theme by March or April. Need to vet students' performance.

Rahim Reed – contact some of the student groups at King Hall and coordinate with them. MLK Day isn't just an African American holiday...should be about all civil rights. Rahim will share a contact with Commission.

Consider how to bring in other student groups. Consider co-sponsorships.

Appoint subcommittee in March.

3. **Review of 2014 Thong Hy Huynh Award Criteria/Categories/Schedule –**
Discussion about Excellence in Community Involvement award – to business or to non-profit? Greenwald interested in separating the two. Privateer suggested leaving as is and just determining whether there are applicable businesses. Include “and/or” as part of award.

Clinton concerned that “Excellence...” title doesn’t fit the award category.

Ellstrand moved, with a second by Greenwald, adding “human relations and/or civil rights...” to Excellence in Community Involvement definition.

Ellstrand moved, with second by Greenwald, to add “and/or” to definition. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYE: Ellstrand, Greenwald, Plank, Privateer

NOES: Clinton

There was consensus to condense the description to one sentence.

Plank moved, with second by Ellstrand, approval of the schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Commission/City Support for Showing of The Laramie Project – The Davis Phoenix Coalition would like to partner with the Human Relations Commission to host a showing of The Laramie Project.**

Gloria Partida explained The Laramie Project film and requested that Commission partner with the Phoenix Coalition. Phoenix Coalition would accept donations. Staff will look into using a city date for the Varsity and will talk with Sinisa. Would hope to do this in the next couple of months.

Greenwald moved co-sponsorship, Ellstrand seconded. Unanimous in favor.

5. **Initial Discussion of Street Names Review/Recommendations**

Greenwald: come up with local and other civil rights leaders (King, Chavez, etc.)

Diane Evans: make sure females on list.

Clinton: do not name streets after living people.

Snow – don’t only use local historical names, since most of Davis history is white middle class. Consider things like historic Black community in Guinda, etc.

Commissioners will think about names and discuss at the next meeting.

VII. Updates/Administrative

1. **Designation of Chavez Day 2014 Subcommittee**

Greenwald – would like to do something different to make more dynamic. Doesn’t think event during Farmers Market enhances the event.

Subcommittee will include: David Greenwald, Nathan Ellstrand, Yvonne Clinton, Gloria Partida, Diane Evans, Cecilia Escamilla Greenwald. Will return in February with a plan.

- 2. Update on New UCD/Community Group** – *Reed reported that he received names from City for subcommittee. Waiting on Chancellor to provide UC Davis names. First meeting will likely be in February. Not sure exactly what group will be doing but maybe they can assist with Breaking the Silence.*

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

To Be Discussed at a Future Meeting:

- Mosaic Café*
- Yolo District Attorney's DUI Program*