



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES
Thursday, August 28, 2014

I. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

*Members Present: Clinton, Greenwald, Partida, Plank, Privateer,
Members Absent: Ellstrand, Madani, Rosen*

Greenwald called the meeting to order at 6:40pm with a moment of silence in honor of Gay Powers.

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

II. Approval of Minutes –July 24, 2014

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

III. Public Comment and Correspondence –

Diane Evans – URJ Committee putting out a social justice calendar. Wants to put a calendar in display case. Diane will talk with staff off-line.

IV. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

Greenwald disappointed that Ferguson community event took place on a Tuesday evening, since there was a conflict with the City Council meeting. (Group understood but there wasn't an alternate date.)

Greenwald: Vanguard's dinner and award ceremony on November 15 at Senior Center. Gloria Partida and Leanne Friedman will be honored. Theme is Prosecutorial Misconduct, with a speaker from Public Defender's Office in Orange County. Will also have a panel discussion related to theme. Tickets are \$50.

Privateer invited to an event on UCD campus on race relations.

V. Council Communications and Staff Announcements

Stachowicz explained MRAP decision by Council. Assistant Police Chief Pytel explained there are individuals who and groups that are dangerous to police, including gangs and individuals with mental health issues. Privateer asked if police used to use shields. Pytel responded that yes, but they are plexiglass.

Stachowicz explained the City is still doing commission recruitment. Please encourage individuals to apply.

Stachowicz reminded the commissioners to adhere to the Brown Act, especially with emails and when talking about commission events.

VI. Discussion Items

1. **Breaking the Silence of Racism**

- a. Police Mediation Subcommittee (Ellstrand, Clinton, Greenwald) and Assistant Police Chief Darren Pytel will report out on any activity based on mediation discussions that have taken place over the past several months.

Clinton: waiting on final reports from Police Department.

Pytel: group met last Friday and is meeting again Friday afternoon. Group still working and hopes to have something to report out soon. Group would like to set up community forums, like the one held on the Ferguson incident. When group charted out incidents historically, there was a local issue that occurred. Hope is to be proactive and have better dialogue.

Also, when there is a national incident or an incident outside of Davis, the police can speak freely about how they would respond; when incident is local, the police are often limited in what they say.

Partida: having a response team is part of the Phoenix Coalition's agenda and wanted the Human Relations Commission's support. Need to clarify the ability for rapid response by commission.

Pytel: HRC appoint a subcommittee to pay attention to national and statewide incidents, work with the police department, and call a community meeting to address an issue.

Greenwald: since Partida and Greenwald wear other hats, would it be easiest and cleanest if Partida and Greenwald were the commission representatives?

Pytel: wanted to set up a regular coffee discussion and send officers on a regular basis to discuss issues, likely at Davis Community Church.

Pytel: third recommendation was to send officers and others out to specific locations

Greenwald moved, with a second by Clinton, to:

- 1. Nominate Greenwald, Clinton, and Partida to carry out recommendations of the police mediation subcommittee. The subcommittee will follow national and state issues of concern related to the police (e.g. King City policy corruption scandal, Trayvon Martin stand your ground case, Rodney King case) and sponsor local conversations to allow minority and the general communities to air their concerns and engage in proactive community-police dialog on these subjects. The purpose is to alleviate or address community concerns that are generated from national and state stories.*

- 2. Subcommittee is empowered by the HRC to work with staff to host a community event without going back to the full commission for approval if time constraints prohibit it.*

Motion passed. 4-0-1 with Privateer abstaining.

- b. Discussion of providing community outreach and intervention related to national, state and local police issues.

See discussion and motion above.

- c. Breaking the Silence 2015 – Commission may discuss preparations for Feb 2015 forum. *Nothing new to report. Will check in at the next meeting.*

2. **Davis as a Sanctuary City Subcommittee Report** – In July, the Commission appointed a subcommittee to work on a reaffirmation of the city's Sanctuary status. The subcommittee has prepared a draft resolution for the Commission to consider.

Partida explained how draft resolution was created.

Discussion re: resolution and how it would work

Ellstrand, Greenwald and Partida will be part of staff conversation with the Police Chief/Department. Staff will set up a meeting with Police Department.

Clinton moved to approve resolution with minor adjustments and recommend to the City Council. Plank seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 3. Proposal from Whites United for Racial Justice to co-sponsor a Racial Justice Mixer in October or November 2014.** The Commission has been approached by this group about co-sponsoring an event at the Veterans Memorial Center in the fall.

Kayla and Joe are members of Whites United for Racial Justice. They have event they would like to host for the community. Shared the WURJ's vision and purpose statement. Group started last year after Zimmerman ruling when there was suggestion for there to be white allies to deal with discrimination issues. They would like to hold an event to gather people together who are interested in racial justice with the main purpose of connecting people. Looking for co-hosts. Two-hour event, with a five-hour block of time at the Vets. Prefer a Saturday in the fall. Oct 25 or November 8 from 11-4, with event from 1-3.

Diane Evans suggested using Davis Community Church or at least getting their co-sponsorship.

Clinton moved, with second by Plank, that HRC co-sponsor to the event. Motion passed unanimously. Greenwald appointed a Subcommittee to include Ellstrand, Friedman (ex officio), and Privateer.

VII. Updates/Recap

1. Report on Davis Phoenix Coalition Annual Retreat

Retreat successful and DPC will bring issues to HRC as needed and appropriate. Ferguson event also went well, with about 50 people in attendance.

Plank: interested in topic of school bullying.

Partida: DPC has a committee working on school bullying.

2. Update on student representation on the Commission

Stachowicz reported out.

3. Update on any rapid response activity(ies) related to Ferguson incident

Handled under other topic.

Commissioners requested an item on the September agenda related to the 1033 MRAP (Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected) vehicle, as they may want to prepare a statement for the City Council.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.