



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

Thursday, December 18, 2014

Valente Room, Davis Senior Center, 646 A Street

6:30 pm

I. **Roll Call and Approval of Agenda (6:30pm)**

Clinton, Davis, Ellstrand, Greenwald, Plank, Roland, Rosen, Fadel (ex officio), Friedman (ex officio)

Absent: Partida

Introductions of commissioners

Stachowicz: Remove Item VI.2. Proposed Amendments to City's Surplus Property Federal Acquisition Policy.

Clinton moved, with second by Plank, approval of the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

II. **Approval of Minutes –November 20, 2014**

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

III. **Public Comment and Correspondence**

Cecilia Escamilla Greenwald: Rich Rifkin column on naming of streets in Cannery referred to two members of the community, Jack Forbes and Jerry Kaneko, and suggested they were recommended for street names only because of racial reasons rather than historical ones. Greenwald shared information from Bill Ritter suggesting that two individuals were and are very deserving of recognition for street names. Asked Commission to consider responding.

IV. **Commissioner Communications and Announcements**

Ellstrand: Wants to have a conversation about Sanctuary City signage in January.

V. **Council Communications and Staff Announcements**

Lucas Frerichs: Welcomed new commissioners. Appreciates desire to have discussion on proposed amendments to surplus property. Would like voices from commission (or other viewpoints) to be heard at January 21 meeting. Would also be supportive of the City doing a proclamation for 2015 being the Year of Justice. Feels it appropriate for the commission to weigh in on the Rifkin comments but would suggest it come from the full commission not just the co-chairs.

VI. **Discussion Items**

1. **Breaking the Silence of Racism**

a. Police Mediation Subcommittee Update (Ellstrand, Clinton, Greenwald) -. Pytel will give presentation in January. Would like working group to attend.

b. **Breaking the Silence 2015 (Ellstrand, Clinton, Partida) –**
Ellstrand shared panel suggestions: Snow, Bulkely, Reed, Pytel, rep from County Social Services, Davis Chamber of Commerce.
Roland suggested having someone at the forum who can speak to justice, but not from District Attorney's office.
Greenwald: suggested Lisa Ray.

c. **State/National Issues Subcommittee Update (Clinton, Greenwald, Partida) –**
No update. Davis Phoenix Coalition is taking the lead. Can remove from future agendas.

2. Proposed Amendments to City's Surplus Property Federal Acquisition Policy

Postponed to a future agenda.

3. Level of Commission Involvement in the January 21 Police/Community Meeting

Greenwald: On November 13th police-led community discussion on the MRAP. Concerns that presentation was one-sided because only police presented. January forum should have more than one viewpoint. Suggests Alan Hopper, ACLU in San Francisco, as a counter viewpoint.

Rosen: hopes police would also be part of the audience and listen so they don't feel like they need to militarize.

Roland: What are the broader questions that the discussion will look at? Will contact ACLU to see if there is anyone who can speak to militarization of police.

M Davis: concerned that police will bother people if they are too militarized. Need someone to speak to that effect.

Greenwald: would like a more diverse discussion but not a debate. Can be a city event.

Diane Evans: anyone from this community?

Perhaps Jack Chin or Kevin Johnson from law school could be contacted to see if someone could participate.

4. 12th Annual Celebration of Abraham/Year of Justice

Roland: Shared concept of a proclamation to designate 2015 as a Year of Justice in Davis. Would like to have proclamation approved and sent to City Council for year of justice.

Would like to add recitals. Would like to present at Celebration of Abraham by January 25.

Clinton moved, with second by Plank, approval in concept of a proclamation for a Year of Justice. Recommending staff work with Roland. Motion passed unanimously. Staff will draft with Helen prior to it going to the Council, which would be January 13 or January 20.

5. Martin Luther King Jr Day 2015 Subcommittee Report (Ellstrand, Plank, Partida)

Clarence Van Hook (panelist and music) and Tim Malone (keynote) are confirmed.

Stachowicz: Malone has concerns regarding panel, so Malone will present after the panel.

Roland: Community Day of Service in April. Travis Libert could speak to this.

Staff will reach out to Freedom Singers.

Stachowicz shared draft flyer for student essay contest. By consensus, commission asked if contest could be broadened to include multiple forms of creative expression, including essay, poem, photo, art, song. City staff will attempt to connect with school staff to get contest underway. City staff will also prepare press release and flyer.

6. Update on Cannery Street Naming

Ellstrand: dismayed at Rich Rifkin's column, which said that Forbes and Kaneko were chosen for racial reasons and were not historical figures. This was not the case, as both individuals contributed much to the community. Shared draft letter written by Greenwald and Ellstrand.

Greenwald: supports idea of entire commission signing on to a letter and/or an op-ed.

Roland: would support both individuals inclusion for having streets named after them, as both were active community members. These people should not be called "tokens." Any op-ed should have explanation of process by which the names were chosen.

Greenwald volunteered to put together a revised op-ed.

Roland moved, with second by Ellstrand, that entire commission send a letter to the editor, with longer explanation in first week of January as an op-ed (to include process of choosing street names). Greenwald, Ellstrand and Clinton authorized to make modifications to letter prior to submittal. Friendly Amendment to have the motion include only the letter to the editor. Amendment accepted by mover and seconder. Motion, as amended, passed unanimously.

Roland moved, with second by Rosen, an op-ed letter for January to explain process for choosing the names and also to explain why the commission felt the column came across as racist or derogatory. Ellstrand, Greenwald and Clinton will work on the piece. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

7. 2015 Commission Workplan

This item was held over to a future meeting.

VII. Updates/Recap

- 1. Royal Oak** – *Stachowicz gave brief update, noting that both City and County are talking about the various issues at Royal Oak.*
- 2. Recap of Shoulder to Shoulder Event** (November 20) – *Commissioners who participated noted that, while the crowd at the event was only moderate, the event was good.*
- 3. Anti-Bullying Efforts** (Subcommittee Partida, Rosen, Plank) – *No update at this time.*

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:40pm.