



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, January 22, 2015

Valente Room, Davis Senior Center, 646 A Street

Time durations listed on the agenda are approximations only and subject to change.

I. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

Greenwald started meeting at 6:35.

Members present: Clinton, Davis, Greenwald, Partida, Roland, Rosen, Lt. Phan (ex officio), Fadel (ex officio), Friedman (ex officio), Frerichs (Council Liaison)

Members absent: Ellstrand, Plank

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

II. Approval of Minutes –December 18, 2014

Postponed to February meeting.

III. Public Comment and Correspondence

No public comment.

IV. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

Rosen – need to turn lights on at beginning of MLK event so people can see to get to seats.

Roland – Celebration of Abraham event to take place on Sunday, January 25 at St. James.

V. Council Communications and Staff Announcements (5 min)

Stachowicz: Provided update on Rich Rifkin's concerns about the commission's letter to the editor in response to Rifkin's column on Cannery name choices.

Frerichs (8:30): Second MRAP meeting on January 21 was good. Council updates: Council awarded an affordable housing site in south Davis to Mike Corbett (Berrybridge). Another site on Fifth Street will be upwards of 50 units for affordable rental housing. Thanked Commission for the Letter to the Editor. Noted there will be a community meeting at Royal Oak this coming weekend. Commended Commission for role played in the police alternative complaint resolution process.

VI. Discussion Items

1. Breaking the Silence of Racism

a. Police Mediation Subcommittee Update

The Committee presented the proposal:

Lt. Paul Doroshov – Explained current process for citizen complaints and investigations.

Carlos Matos – Shared history of difficult relations between police and some community members. Believes that Chief Black and staff have made significant progress but also that a new process to deal with complaints could improve things further.

Malik Bennett – There was tension between former Human Relations Commission and the Police Department, so the two groups worked together to develop a process that both could agree on. In reviewing historical information, found when people talked together, the situation was diffused. Thought about alternative conflict resolution, HRC event tracking, and reviewed the formal process.

Assistant Police Chief Darren Pytel: No one likes current complaint process since it doesn't allow for any contact other than a letter from the Police Department. Both complainant and police officers need to be able to see each other as people. Determined that there had to be a better way to address complaints.

Proposal: When someone files a complaint, they can determine they want to go through an alternative resolution. For legal purposes, this is called a mediation. Assistant Police Chief will determine which complaints can go forward in the process (not every complaint is eligible, for example, complaints of excessive use of force). Everyone must agree to go through the process. Police Department will contact trained circle keepers (community members), who will then contact involved parties and have everyone meet to try to resolve the conflict and try to restore the relationship by hearing both sides.

Another difficult situation this may help with is for the person who has reached a tipping point. Current complaint process does not deal with 20 years of history; it deals only with the last incident, so it may not address the individual's frustrations. Using a circle process may help the police understand the history and may help the individual work through frustrations.

Even if a formal investigation is completed, still open to doing the circle process at the end of the investigation, allowing for more of a restorative process.

Pytel: Police Association voted strongly in favor to adopt Alternative Conflict Resolution.

Yvonne Clinton (as representative of presenting group): One recommendation was for the HRC to track national and state issues in order to prepare for dialogues with the community and be proactive. Partnering with the Davis Phoenix Coalition to do this.

Cecilia Escamilla Greenwald: Noted when there are national issues related to race issues, they trickle down locally. Escamilla Greenwald and Matos will be reaching out to certain communities in Davis to help build bridges between community and Police Department.

Diane Evans: group is focused on prevention and bringing people together before there is conflict.

Questions:

Roland: Is Islamophobia a problem in Davis?

Partida: Davis Phoenix Coalition hoping to address Islamophobia at next Chat with the Chief. Will be showing movie about a shooting in Wisconsin, hopefully in February.

Lucas Frerichs: what is the cost of the program?

Pytel: Cost is somewhat unknown factor right now. Will have to compensate officers since they are participating during work time. This process could take longer than the traditional process, but it will not require the administrative overhead time for an investigation. Hope is that, although the initial cost may be greater, in the long term, it will cost the same or even slightly less. Circle keepers are envisioned to be volunteers.

Robb Davis: AB540 Center on campus wants to be clearinghouse for people who are undocumented. If there is a meeting on Islam, there is a large student community, so should reach out to them.

Greenwald: Reflected on history of issues locally and on fact that there was perception of racial profiling by police. Excited about this process and its possibilities.

Roland: This process could increase safety in Davis overall. If people were talking together, then they wouldn't be so terrified. This project, when ready, needs to be written up, so keep good documentation.

M. Davis: Chose to come back to Davis because he saw how police were working in the community. Believes the officers are trying to keep people safe. Would be good if there was an element of education as part of the program.

MOTION: Roland moved that the Human Relations Commission commend the people on the committee for their work and thoughtful plan and recommend presentation to City Council for its approval. Greenwald provided a second with a Friendly Amendment to ask the Council to approve the project. Friendly amendment accepted. Motion passed unanimously in favor, with ceremonial support by ex officio Leanne Friedman.

b. Breaking the Silence 2015

Partida: Explained the basic structure of forum. The subcommittee will have additional meeting next week.

Greenwald: Since he will be moderating, he would like to be involved in developing questions for panel.

Roland: Would like information about program as soon as it's ready.

2. Proposal for Commission to Host Community Dialogue Related to Militarization of Police –

Greenwald: At December meeting, discussed offering an alternative viewpoint related to militarization of police. The meeting that took place on January 21 went a different direction. Proposes to co-sponsor a forum with Davis Phoenix Coalition and Vanguard. Police will participate but have asked to host something in perhaps March and have asked that it focus on broader issue of militarization.

Roland: perhaps involve Celebration of Abraham group?

MOTION: Roland moved, with second by Partida, to develop community dialogue on militarization of police. Motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee: Rosen, Roland, Davis

3. **2015 Commission Workplan** –
Hold over until future meeting.

VII. Updates/Recap

1. **Royal Oak** – *Greenwald and Frerichs gave update on Royal Oak situation. There will be a meeting this weekend. Supervisor Provenza will be attending. There are many problems for the residents, who appear to be taken advantage of.*
2. **Recap of MLK Day 2015:** *Consider ADA issues. Appreciated quick introduction of electeds (didn't take away from program). Camera in wheelchair locations. Kids well behaved. Tim Malone great choice for speaker. Singers were great. Thank you notes will come from Mayor.*
3. **Anti-Bullying Efforts** (Subcommittee Partida, Roland, Plank)
Partida would like to have DPC do a campaign on Spread the Word to End the Word/Repeal the R Word Day, which is March 3.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.