



City of Davis
Human Relations Commission Minutes
September 24, 2015

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Members Present: Clinton, Davis (arr 6:40), Ellstrand, Greenwald, Partida (arr 6:43), Roland, Rosen, Glasgow (ex officio), Friedman (ex officio), Snow (ex officio)

Chair Greenwald opened the meeting at 6:35pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Will move Police Issues Subcommittee on the agenda after Brief Announcements.

Clinton moved, with second by Rosen, approval of agenda as modified. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Clinton, Ellstrand, Greenwald, Roland, Rosen

NOES: None

ABSENT: Davis, Partida

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons

Greenwald passed out information on Vanguard annual dinner on November 14 in West Sacramento. Theme is Preventing Wrongful Convictions.

Roland: still a few tickets for the play "Seven" at Vets in October. Play is about seven women from around the world who suffered wrongs and the actions they took.

Partida: Meeting of Yolo Rainbow Families on September 25. Will meet monthly. There is a Facebook page. Upstander Festival is October 18 and looking for volunteers. Partida will send information out. Held the International Day of Peace on September 19.

Glasgow: One hate crime downtown. Transient called sexual orientation names to individual (employee of business), but individual did not want to press charges.

Ellstrand: on campus, more hate crime graffiti on campus over the summer.

Snow: continue to develop District staff understanding to restorative justice. Understanding is often linked to Neighborhood Court and one reinforces the other well.

Greenwald: commission may want to take up unconscious bias training.

Greenwald: incident on UC Davis campus, former student in the 24-hour reading room. Police came and removed individual, took him outside and threw him down. Appears to have been charged with trespassing. Vanguard ran a story and it has gotten thousands of view. He's filed a complaint on campus; commission may want to look at process.

4. Public Comment

Partida: MacBrine put on great presentation on disability earlier in September. Would be good for DJUSD staff and for City staff. Ellstrand: perhaps have another session in the evening for commission and others in the public to attend.

5. Consent Calendar

- A. August 20, 2015 Minutes
- B. August 27, 2015 Minutes

*The following corrections were suggested: 20th – Add a “d” to “Stachowicz provide(d)”
27th - Change “AG” to “a-g” and explain that affordability relates to the local housing
Roland moved, with a second by Clinton, approval of both sets of minutes as amended.
Motion passed unanimously in favor.*

6. Regular Items

A. Recap of August Planning Discussions

1. Police Issues Subcommittee Report (Ellstrand, Greenwald, Roland)

*Ellstrand: subcommittee met. Would like to host forum around the circle process. Would like the buy-in of the commission to hold the forum. Would also like members of the pilot program to participate. Looking for a central location. Would like to do in October. Could do at Davis Community Church (DCC) on October 12 or 19 if DCC will co-sponsor. MacBrine cannot make the 12th. MacBrine suggested putting group through a Circle Process. Roland will follow up with DCC.
Greenwald: Commission would like to go through the same training process. (Glasgow will look into.) Partida suggested Senior Center as an alternate location.*

2. Schools Issues Subcommittee Report (Partida, Clinton, Davis)

*See minutes from the August 27 meeting.
Commission engaged in discussion about DJUSD Strategic Plan. Snow described plan, initial results and ongoing efforts.
Partida: feels District, in general, is headed in the direction that the Commission would want to go.
Greenwald: interested in looking at preschool as the start of the achievement gap. Commission discussed education related issues and potential action steps.
Snow: Facing History in Ourselves- interesting middle school curriculum*

B. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration (Jan 2016)

*Ellstrand: would like to start working on this earlier rather than later. Are there themes Commission is interested in? Greenwald interested in policing and race as a contemporary issue that relates to MLK. Partida interested in Black Lives Matter. Ellstrand: post-traumatic slave syndrome (MacBrine’s idea). Davis: show the past treatment to show why Black Lives Matter.
Ellstrand: use Black Lives Matter as a jumping point to talk about policing and race.
Roland: interesting to watch response to Black Lives Matter. As a primarily white community, it’s easy for people to say they are not racist and the discussion doesn’t apply to them. Colorblind is a position that can be frustrating to people of color.
Rosen: take excerpts from police training to talk about unconscious bias, racism, etc.*

MacBrine: police don't respond anymore to calls of someone looking suspicious because they are black. Uncomfortable always blaming police and not the community. Community needs to understand their own part in the blame.

Snow: who shows up on MLK Day? All the good, white liberals? How create something to address the issues? Maybe suggest small group gatherings and then show up at the Varsity for the event?

Partida: maybe a series of discussions leading up to the day? Get moderators.

Greenwald (depart 8:10)

Subcommittee: Davis, Partida, Roland will work on efforts and share progress at the next meeting.

C. Breaking the Silence (Date TBD)

Discussions about whether to host Breaking the Silence again. If so, when and what format? What is purpose and goal?

Davis: would like expanded version to include all forms of discrimination.

Partida: Community Conversations or Living Room Conversations might be a good way to do Breaking the Silence. Have small group gathering then a large group gathering.

Interest in event, maybe combine Breaking the Silence with MLK Day.

Snow: people in Davis trying to educate their kids. Help families know how to talk about race and racism.

Public Comment: MacBrine: need real dates/details for issues and problems by police to help with training.

Subcommittee to explore and return to Commission with progress: Ellstrand, Clinton

7. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Long Range Calendar/ Commission Work Plan –

Partida would like co-sponsorship of film. Put on October.

Chat with the Chief, November

B. Anti-Bullying Efforts (Subcommittee Partida, Roland)

Gay Straight Alliance groups at schools are meeting to discuss, Upstander Festival will take place October 18, restorative practices are taking root in schools and community.

Roland: has the Southern Poverty Law Center anti-bullying video should anyone want to borrow it.

C. Sanctuary City Progress

Stachowicz: Signs in the queue.

Roland: Working with faith organizations and Celebration of Abraham. Some groups working on relocation efforts.

D. Student Commissioner

Stachowicz: Student Commissioner position is vacant. Commission and staff will work to fill.

8. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.
