



City of Davis
Human Relations Commission Minutes
Thursday, August 25, 2016

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Members Present: Clinton, Davis, Greenwald, Partida, Roland, Friedman (Ex-Officio), Snow (Ex-Officio)

Members Absent: O'Rourke-Powell

Also Present: Dyer, Phan, Pytel, Stachowicz

2. Approval of Agenda

Partida moved with second by Roland approval of the agenda as presented. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Clinton, Davis, Greenwald, Partida, Roland

NOES: None

ABSENT: O'Rourke-Powell

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons

- Greenwald states that the opening public comment item is for items not listed on the agenda with an allocated three minutes each. Three minutes will be allotted to each person during the public comment time allocated for each agenda item. A reminder that Commissioners will not respond to public comment at that time.*

4. Public Comment

No public comment for items not on the agenda.

5. Consent Calendar

Partida moves with second by Davis approval of the May 26, 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Clinton, Davis, Greenwald, Partida, Roland

NOES: None

ABSENT: O'Rourke-Powell

6. Regular Items

A. Discussion with Chief of Police.

Chief Pytel introduced the topic of the Police Department 3 Year strategic plan, which is in the process of being developed. He would like the HRC to begin thinking about items of interest to the commission, goals, etc. that could be incorporated. Pytel will return at a later meeting for further discussion. Community meetings will be held to discuss goals for the plan including, traffic enforcement, parking issues, bicycle safety, crime reduction, community engagement with department relations.

Snow suggested that Spanish interpretation be available at Marguerite Montgomery Elementary School.

B. Discussion on Implicit Biases in Community Reactions to Proposed Projects.

Recently, some proposed developments in Davis have spurred comments by residents seen as discriminatory. The Commission discussed the issue and what role the Commission can take to foster more appropriate dialogue.

Greenwald–Stated that he asked the item to be agenzized and what the function of the Human Relations Commission includes and does not include.

Functions Do not Include:

Hotels

Development

Functions Include:

Promotes mutual respect, understanding and tolerance among all persons. Seeks to build a community where relationships among diverse peoples are valued by all, discrimination and hate are not tolerated, the voices of the voiceless are heard, and citizens can address issues dealing with hatred, discrimination and alienation through education, outreach, studies and recommendations to the City Council.

Greenwald reaffirms agenda item and states why he asked to include. Due to recent public comments that can be construed as hurtful, would like HRC to help facilitate moving public comments forward in a better state of dialogue. In recent meetings, there have been comments that he found personally hurtful. He would like to reach an agreement of how to move forward and lift level of discourse. Hopes this is the start of the conversation and not the end.

Greenwald proposes that Commission can ask questions and provide comments, then move to public comment and lastly HRC can discuss future role.

Roland proposes public comment first as she is unfamiliar with item. Clinton agrees.

Public Comment Begins:

- *Jim Danzer – Request that Mr. Greenwald recuse himself from discussion as this item seems to be extension of article written by Greenwald on Davis Vanguard. Believes statements in Vanguard weren't accurately reflecting Danzer's views. Suggests that Greenwald remove himself from his position on the Commission.*
- *Jen Boschee Danzer – Requests resignation of Greenwald and does not believe Vanguard article was accurate or fostering positive community dialog.*
- *Tim O'Brien – Requests resignation of Greenwald.*
- *Stephanie Hague – Suggests entire commission discuss adding items to the agenda in a public meeting, rather than allowing items added by individual commissioners. Disagrees with this item being placed on HRC agenda.*

- *Ann Block - Vanguard works hard for social justice, but article referencing Jim Danzer was a mistake and would like apology.*
- *Doug Cobolt – Speaking in support of Jim Danzer. Requests Greenwald to recuse himself from item.*
- *Ms. Kodira –Would like article retracted and apology to Mr. Danzer.*
- *Kelsey McMorrow – Requests apology of Mr. Greenwald to Mr. Danzer.*
- *Trina McMorrow – Requests apology and retraction. States that as Chair and journalist Greenwald should check facts and sources.*
- *Madison McKenzie –The article is not good journalism.*
- *Emilio Ferrera –Found comments in article inflammatory and surprising.*
- *Tarin McMorrow – Wants to know why facts weren't checked prior to article written.*
- *Jim Belenis –Doesn't understand why Danzer wasn't contacted for clarification.*
- *Jonathan London – Discussion should focus on affordable housing and the way that the community can be prejudice and opposed. How can commission think creatively for constructive dialogue in holding a forum for conversation that addresses class.*
- *Sean Raycraft –Residents have not always supported low income housing. Inappropriate to delegitimize the work that the HRC does.*
- *Rebecca Baxter –Conversation of proposed hotel is not low income housing and should be a separate conversation.*
- *Daryl Rutherford – Executive Director of Sacramento Housing Alliance. Comments in past have attacked people of modest means. Needs to have larger forum to have discussion to have more equitable community. Supports HRC conducting a forum.*
- *Ann Murray Flynn –. Would like to find a way to elevate our dialog in our community. Requests that HRC take issue to elevate conversation.*
- *Michael–Recommends Greenwald recusing from discussion of item.*
- *Dea Athan Deamont –Requests that HRC take the item of courteous community dialog seriously.*

- *Diane Heisan – As a chair of a public body, shouldn't consider writing anything regarding the scope of the body in which you serve.*

Public comments closed at 7:53 p.m.

Greenwald responds that this discussion item was not about any individual.

Commission re- opens public comment

- *David Pinto – Mr. Greenwald started issue with writing about an individual incident.*
- *Alan Pryor –Feels Mr. Greenwald supports developers.*
- *Michael Bisch –One of hotel developers. Concerned that land use conversation is turning into human relations discussion. Would like to have broader discussion later; how to address housing for people of diverse means.*

Commission comments included:

Greenwald stated that he has been made aware of lots of despairing comments, not just those from Mr. Danzer.

Partida –HRC work is to have conversations that connect people, not divide them. Agenda item is to talk about implicit bias in community.

Roland - Davis needs to have conversations about racism in Davis. Understands that there are issues that need to be addressed, and would like better understanding of intent of item and issues at hand.

Partida, Davis, Roland – Support agendizing discussion of concerns that have been raised at future meeting.

Roland – Sees two issues that have come out of this.

1. *Would like forum that is planned and productive.*
2. *Hears that people are questioning the role of HRC and how it relates to the personal interests of its individual members. HRC needs to deal with issue of public dialog.*

Commission Actions

Roland moves with second by Partida to set up subcommittee to create public dialog regarding issues raised in larger context of community comments. Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Clinton, Davis, Partida, Roland

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Greenwald

*ABSENT: O'Rourke-Powell
Subcommittee to consist of Roland and Partida, Davis*

Roland moves with second by Davis to adgenize an item that looks at how structure and governance makes Human Relations Commission most effective in carrying out our mission. Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Clinton, Davis, Partida, Roland

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Greenwald

ABSENT: O'Rourke-Powell

Snow – Suggests that Restorative Justice practice could be used to address harm that has been done. There is responsibility to ensure commission is effective as possible in delivering mission.

7. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned with additional items to be carried over to next month.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carrie Dyer
City Manager's Office
