



~ M I N U T E S ~

City of Redlands Human Relations Commission
Council Chambers, Civic Center Plaza - 35 Cajon Street, Redlands, CA
Monday, July 21, 2014

PRESENT: Ed Gomez, Chair, presiding; Gail Howard, Vice Chair; Carole Coley, Secretary; Commissioners Evelyn Maldonado, Donald Singer, Staff Liaison Officer Elyzabeth Green.
ABSENT: Commissioners Judith Ashton, Zoie Gilpin, Robert Reid, Ronald Venegas, Council Liaison Bob Gardner.

I. CALL TO ORDER

After a quorum was established, the meeting opened at 5:49 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Commission by formal motion approved the meeting agenda.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The Commission by formal motion approved without corrections the minutes of the May 19 meeting.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS

None

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VI. ACTIONS

a) **2014 HRC By-Laws Update/Approval:** After a final review of the proposed by-laws, *the Commission by formal motion* approved to make the recommended changes to the proposed by-laws discussed at this meeting and submit them via Staff Liaison Green to the City Clerk. The changes will appear in Article V, #5, regarding consecutive absences from meetings; Article VI, #5, eliminating the phrase "assistance of city staff;" Article XI, prefacing Robert's Rules of Order with "modified version of." A copy of the submitted by-laws will be made as part of these minutes.

b) **Proposed Survey:** Discussion of the proposed survey centered on determining a focus and having trained individuals to assist in developing the survey and analyzing its results. Suggestions for the focus included the ranking of issues that concern the user, such as disparity in city services; gang activity, acts of unlawful discrimination, real or perceived; places or instances where the alleged discrimination occurred (places of public accommodations, churches, school, public transportation, housing), etc. The anonymous individual completing the survey would be asked to provide the following information: Gender, gender identification, age, veteran status, familial status, education, employment status, income level, etc. Because of his professional expertise in this area, Council Liaison Bob Gardner will be approached for assistance in this effort.

VII. DISCUSSIONS

a) **Immigration Issue: Murrieta/Fontana:** Desirous of taking a stand for the children involved in the current immigration crisis, *the Commission by formal motion* approved seeking

collaboration with local organizations sympathetic to the plight of the children from Central America seeking entry into the United States and presenting this collaboration in the form of a resolution to City Council. It is significant to note that one nay vote was tendered.

Coley was asked to seek out organizations - religious and otherwise - that may wish to join with us.

- b) **Public Facilities Registration Thru HRC:** There have been instances of public facilities being reserved in the name of the HRC when, in fact, the HRC had not made these reservations. To remain in compliance with the City Code in posting all HRC meetings, the Chair requested that the name of the Redlands Human Relations Commission not be used unless an actual HRC event is being held and has been legally posted with the City Clerk's office.

VIII. REPORTS

a) **Committees:**

Youth Services: Howard is continuing her work on fingerprinting individuals who work with minors involved in sports activities.

Scholarship: Maldonado reported that five scholarships were provided. She will report the names of the recipients at the next HRC meeting.

Social Justice: Coley reported that she has been researching information for the proposed survey.

b) **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

Through a missive to the Chair, Ashton she reported she has recently joined the Redlands CERT (community emergency response team) so that beyond the obvious emergency needs, the HRC will have a presence in the CERT program.

In June she attended a LGBTQ conference sponsored by the San Bernardino County of Mental Health. The program included assisting the LGBTQ community's undocumented youth who are traumatized by their illegal status in addition to their sexual orientation.

She was recently elected vice president of the Redlands Area Interfaith Council (RAIC), which recently encouraged the Redlands City Council to hire a part-time coordinator for the Adult Literacy program at the Smiley Library. RAIC is currently continuing their communication with Redlands Community Hospital in regard to the need for a full time chaplain. This initiative is supported by the Christian churches as well as RAIC members representing the Islamic community, the Jewish community, and the Unitarian Universalists.

Maldonado reported that she will be participating in the City's school backpack event.

IX. STAFF REPORT

Officer Green reported that the Redlands Police Department and Micah House will give away backpacks during a Back2School Jam at Sylvan Park from 10:00 a.m. to noon Saturday, August 3. She noted children ranging from kindergarten to high school are encouraged to attend and that donations of hot dogs and buns are still needed. The event will commence with a community cleanup from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Each participating child or teen will receive a free backpack and school supplies. **(Note: For more information, visit <http://www.cityofredlands.org/node/564>.)**

X. OPEN DISCUSSION

A discussion on the schedule of HRC meetings was launched by the Chair, as he read from Ashton's missive in which she noted that our 'meeting every two months cripples our effectiveness.' Members expressed shared agreement on this issue.

It was suggested that Commissioners as a group attend an upcoming City Council meeting. The Chair suggested that prior to this group attendance, Commissioners reduce to writing their concerns regarding the ineffectiveness of the HRC meeting every other month and/or your rationale for meeting more frequently and email them to him. The Chair will then summarize your remarks and fashion a statement on behalf of the HRC that he will present during the public comment section of Council's meeting agenda. ***(Note: The next City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, August 19).***

XI. ADJOURN

The Commission by formal motion approved adjourning the meeting at 6:54 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:45 p.m. on Monday, September 18, 2014 in Council chambers unless otherwise notified.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Coley, Secretary
July 23, 2014