



~ MINUTES ~

City of Redlands Human Relations Commission  
Council Chambers, Civic Center Plaza - 35 Cajon Street, Redlands, CA  
Monday, November 17, 2014

**PRESENT:** Ed Gomez, Chair, presiding; Gail Howard, Vice Chair; Carole Coley, Secretary; Commissioners Gretchen Andrews, Judith Ashton, Zoie Gilpin, Evelyn Maldonado, Donald Singer, Ronald Venegas, Staff Liaison Officer Elyzabeth Green.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

After a quorum was established, the meeting opened at 5:50 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 September 15 meeting.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**V. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

Commissioners welcomed new member Gretchen Andrews, who gave a brief summary of her background. Andrews replaces Robert Reid.

**VI. REPORTS**

A. Committee Reports

1. *César Chávez Breakfast Committee*

Venegas discussed some of the aspects of planning the annual scholarship breakfast, noting that he is checking on the availability of Northside facility for this event. Venegas suggested including more Northside residents in the event by utilizing Northside organizations to assist in the planning. Although Venegas desires a Facebook presence for the event, it had previously been determined by city officials that that was prohibited.

2. *Social Justice Committee*

Coley reported on a meeting held in late October that was attended by Commissioner Ashton, two representatives of the Redlands school district, a young high school student, and two active community members. The topic of overall race relations in Redlands brought the most passionate discussion from the African Americans present at this meeting who spoke about their most recent and past experiences in Redlands. The general consensus among the group was that many of the older white majority population of Redlands 1) most probably believe that racism does not exist either in Redlands or the nation; 2) would tend to believe they are not racist, prejudiced, or bigoted; 3) would see nothing amiss with human relations in the city. The group suggested a community forum be held hopefully in the spring of 2015 that would address these issues as well as racial biases and institutional racism utilizing a

moderated panel of speakers knowledgeable in their field. (Minutes of this meeting are available.)

In order to reach those citizens who most would hold these beliefs, it was suggested that we try to organize with Town & Gown and have them sponsor this event.

3. *Student Issues Committee*

This was the last meeting for Student Commission Gilpin, who was wished her well on her future endeavors.

B. Commissioners' Reports

Both Ashton and Singer announced that the annual Redlands Interfaith Council Thanksgiving celebration would be held at Congregation Emanu El on Sunday, November 23, at 4:00 p.m. Howard reported that the annual 'walk' commemorating the Cinnamon Creek apartment shooting will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 5. Coley reported on her participation in Meals of Love at the Ronald McDonald House.

**VI. STAFF REPORT**

Staff Liaison Green reported on the upcoming Police Department's Annual Block Party scheduled for Saturday, December 13. Coley, Howard, and Maldonado volunteered to participate. Also, the annual 'Shop With A Cop' event will be held on Monday, December 22, at Target.

**VII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Chair Gomez announced that the Commission's annual retreat will be held in January and that all commissioners should come with ideas for HRC goals 2015. The retreat, as with all meetings, will be open to the public and city officials will be invited. Coley was asked to contact *The Redlands Daily Facts* for publicity on the event. Annual election of officers will be held during the retreat.

**XI. ADJOURN**

***The Commission by formal motion*** approved adjourning the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled **for 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 10, 2015** at a location that will be announced.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Coley, Secretary  
December 29, 2014