



~ M I N U T E S ~  
SPECIAL MEETING

City of Redlands Human Relations Commission  
Redlands City Hall/ Council Chambers - 35 Cajon St. Redlands CA  
5:45 PM – Monday, March 23, 2015

**PRESENT:** Ed Gomez, Chair, presiding; Gail Howard, Vice Chair; Carole Coley, Secretary; Commissioners Swathi Balaji (Student), Gretchen Andrews, Judith Ashton, Donald Singer, Ronald Venegas; Staff Chris Mead

**ABSENT:** Evelyn Maldonado (excused)

*Note: New Council member John James attended this meeting as an observer.*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

After a quorum was established, the meeting opened at 5:47 PM

**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 January special meeting.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**V. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

**A. Panhandling Issue**

Concern was expressed because the HRC was not asked for input or involvement into a community meeting on panhandling that was recently held by RPD Chief Garcia. Officer Mead explained that it was not intentional for Chief Garcia to exclude the HRC but he would take our concerns back to the Chief.

Once again, concerns were expressed regarding the HRC's inability to formally act and involve itself on issues in the City due to its restrictive policy of meeting every other month. Commissioner Singer noted that council members in the past were assigned to the HRC as liaisons and regularly attended HRC meetings. (Note that Councilman James attended only as an observer).

Chair Gomez also noted that the HRC in the past has been invited to present before Council, usually in the month of February. Thus far, he continued, no invitation has been received. Officer Mead was asked to look into this.

**B. Black History Month**

Coley will begin to prepare for an essay contest for Black History Month 2016. It was suggested that the contest be offered to students in the RSUD from K-12.

### C. Market Night

As a means of providing more visibility in the community, it was suggested that the HRC host a booth at Market Night to provide information. Officer Mead was asked to see if the HRC would be exempt from the customary waiver fee.

A proposed survey would be offered to Redlands residents to assess the 'health' of Redlands. T-shirts or preferably Polo shirts emblazoned with the City emblem be ordered locally and worn at this and all city-sponsored events. Additionally, it was noted that the HRC brochure is in need of updating. Dates for this activity need to be determined.

### D) Malnutrition Awareness

Student Commissioner Balaji reported that she is all set for an event on malnutrition with her Compact Club in April. She noted that she plans to travel to India this summer, where she will be working with government school children instructing them in diet and nutrition.

### E) Local Politicians and Public Servants Outreach

Commissioner Singer had lunch with new Councilmember Paul Barich and reported that Barich knew little about the HRC but offered whatever assistance that Council could provide.

Commissioner Venegas agreed to meet with new Councilmember John James.

Student Commissioner met with RUSD Superintendent Lori Rhodes, who informed that the district's 'Synergy Days' would be held April 15 or 16, 2015.

No other contacts were reported.

## VI. REPORTS

### A. Committee Reports

*Youth & Education:* Commissioner Howard reported that she found out that youth were being charged at the community center when, in fact, no fee should have been collected. This has since been corrected and the few dollars that have been collected will be invested in new equipment for the center and the City will be asked for matching funds for this effort.

#### *César Chávez Scholarship Breakfast*

**The Commission by formal motion approved** reimbursing Commissioner Venegas the amount of \$59.59 for expenses he has personally incurred for this event.

**The Commission by formal motion approved** the amount not-to-exceed \$500 for food and other items for the breakfast.

Commissioner Coley agreed to design and print the program. Chair Gomez will be keynote speaker and Commissioner Venegas will emcee and lead the auction. Commissioner Howard informed that State Assemblyman Mark Steinorth (R-Rancho Cucamonga) would have representatives at the breakfast to present certificates to members of the RDP for their dedication to helping at the breakfast. After a discussion on appropriateness, it was agreed that Steinorth's representatives could provide the certificates but not speak. It was further decided

that the Commission itself would also recognize these individuals. Commissioner Coley will design the certificates and apply appropriate language.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**IX. STAFF REPORT**

None.

**X. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Andrews announced that a community garden is being created at the Redlands Church of Christ at 168 Bellevue Avenue. All are welcome to the garden space and its anticipated produce. She also circulated a poster promoting the Community Day of Service, which occurs on April 28, 2015.

Commissioner Coley noted that she would be attending an awards dinner for Time for Change Foundation.

Commissioner Ashton promoted a First Annual Hunger Walk, 5-K Walk, at the University of Redlands for Redlands Family Service Association on June 5. More information will be forthcoming. ***The Commission by formal motion approved*** utilizing available funds remaining from a \$300 Morning Kiwanis Club donation to support this effort.

It was reported that the annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast is coming up but no date was available.

Chair Gomez reported that use of the City logo for HRC shirts was approved and will assume responsibility for ordering once a suitable local printer is secured.

Chair Gomez thanked Councilmember James for attending and asked for his continued involvement.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2015 in Council Chambers unless otherwise notified.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Coley, Secretary  
April 20, 2015