

**City of Redlands
Human Relations Commission
Council Chambers, Civic Center
35 Cajon Street, Redlands, CA 92373
January 8, 2024
6:30pm-7:30pm**

Members Present: Ken Ford, Chairperson, Julie Houston, Commissioner, Vanessa Aranda, Commissioner, Claudia Ruiz, Commissioner, Gail Howard, Commissioner, Neha Agarwal, Commissioner, Ryan Chau, Student Commissioner

Staff Liaison - Sarah Redinger

City Council Member Mario Saucedo was present in the audience.

A. Call to Order: Attendance

B. Reading of Committee Mission and Purpose

1. Commissioner Houston reminded the commission of the approved motion at the previous meeting to read the HRC's mission and purpose at the beginning of each meeting.
2. Mission read by Student Commissioner Chau; Purpose read by Commissioner Houston.

C. Public Comment

1. No public comments were made.

D. Approval of the minutes from Meeting on November 13, 2023

1. Approval of minutes postponed to the next meeting when copies will be available.

E. Presentations: None

F. Chairperson Report

1. Discussed HRC meeting changing to once per month. Chairperson Ford asked the commission to consider a vote to bring to the city council that starting in March of 2024 the Human Relations Commission meetings will be once a month. Commissioner Howard said that due to the many city commissions it may not change that the Human Relations Commission can meet more than once every other month. Chairperson Ford explained that it was brought up at a previous meeting that some commissioners wanted to see if this change was possible. He explained that more meetings would allow the commission to accomplish more and also that in the past, due to not having a quorum at some meetings, it could be several months in between

meetings. Meeting more frequently would alleviate the long gaps of time that hinder progress on commission goals. Chairperson Ford said that to bring this consideration to the city council, he would like to see a vote by the HRC first. Chairperson Ford made the motion for a request to be made to city council that Human Relations Commission meetings be every month. Commissioner Houston seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

2. Annual Planning Session will be on January 27, 2024, from 12-3 pm at the City Recreation Center at 111 Washington St., Redlands. At this time the commission will prepare a report of accomplishments and future goals. Commissioner Agarwal what happens at planning meetings, since she has only been on the commission a few months. Chairperson Ford explained that it is not a public meeting and the commission plans for the upcoming year. Commissioner Ford asked members to think about activities they would like HRC to do, such as helping with certain charity events. Commissioner Ruiz said she did not feel charity events alone were aligned with the HRC mission of unifying people if it did not involve race, class, gender or other groups as stated in the mission and purpose. Commissioner Ford said that charity events could serve the mission's purpose of helping various groups in different ways. Commissioner Howard made a motion to hold the Annual HRC planning retreat on January 27, 2024. Chairperson Ford seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

G. Status Reports from Subcommittees

1. Discussed fundraising. Commissioner Agrawal asked if we have funds available. Commissioner and treasurer Aranda stated that we have approximately \$800. Chairperson Ford stated that we do have funds available and should discuss what the funds will be used for.
2. Commissioner Aranda discussed the idea brought up at the previous HRC meeting to have a fundraiser walk that focuses on historical sites and contributions of different communities, such as historically under-recognized groups in the north side of Redlands. Commissioner Aranda said she needed to reach out to organizers of similar events in the community, such as those of Run through Redlands, to get more information and see if it would be sponsored by the HRC or another organization that the HRC would work with. A possible route would be starting at Israel Beal Park, possibly going past the proposed Coyoza Park area, former Redlands China Town, St. Mary's Church and other sites that we would research. Commissioner Howard had pointed out that Israel Beal's original ranch was in the area of the Home Depot on Lugonia Ave. as well. Commissioner Aranda acknowledged that Councilperson Saucedo, who was in the audience, was instrumental in both Israel Beal Park and in the proposed Coyazo Park in Northside Redlands.

Whereas the original idea had included going as far as Jennie Davis Park and the Veteran's Memorial with the eternal flame, in mapping the route, that would make the walk too long. Liaison Redinger asked what the funds would be used for. Commissioner Aranda said that this had not been determined yet, other than whatever purposes the funds were used for must be aligned with the mission and purpose of the HRC. Student Commissioner Chau shared an idea that the funds could be used towards landmarks or memorials educating the public about those spaces and lesser known history of the area. Chairperson Ford asked if it could also be a run, in addition to a walk, and Commissioner Aranda said that she was not sure as she does not know the details each entails. Commissioner Ford said he felt it could be both. It was reviewed that a sub-committee had been established at the previous Human Relations Commission meeting for this purpose and Commissioner Aranda said that she would reach out to organizers of similar events and communicate with sub-committee members.

3. Discussed the unity report. Liaison Redinger asked Chairperson Ford about the difference between the unity report and commemorative flags under agenda item H-a and Commissioner Ford stated that he intended for them to be the same agenda item. Commissioner Aranda said she thought the unity report was in regards to the agenda item at the previous meeting regarding Palestine and Israel and a possible unity event. Chairperson Ford clarified that this was not the intent of the current agenda item. Chairperson Ford clarified for those not present at the previous meeting that the idea had been suggested for the Human Relations Commission to recommend an action or statement regarding events in Palestine and Israel. Commissioner Ford recommended reaching out to the Redlands InterFaith Council and Commissioner Aranda said that she would do that.

H. New Business

1. Discussed a recommendation to the city council on commemorative flags. The commemorative flags idea brought forth to the council by community member Tracy Wise was discussed. It was clarified that the idea includes, but is not limited to, the Pride flag. Commissioner Ruiz asked for clarification on the issue because due to her understanding the City Council had already addressed the issue and voted to reject the flying of the Pride flag at City Hall. She did not understand why they would consider the idea again if they had already voted no. Chairperson Ford explained that it is within the commission's reach to make a recommendation to the city council for them to reconsider. Commissioner Ruiz asked what other flags would be included in this proposed recommendation to the city. Commissioner Howard said she felt it should only be the American flag. Commissioner Aranda said Wise had given examples of other cities who approved commemorative flags

recognizing different groups on different months. Commissioner Agarwal said that a sub-committee had met comprised of Commissioners Houston, Aranda and Agarwal that discussed the flag issue. It was clarified that we did not have a specific sub-committee for commemorative flags. Commissioner Houston said that we had given the existing sub-committee a more broad name, such as social action committee. Commissioner Aranda asked for clarification on inviting members of the community to participate in sub-committees. Commissioner Ford explained that community members can be on HRC sub-committees. A motion was made and approved for a sub-committee to be formed to research commemorative flags. The sub-committee would reach out to invite community member Wise to be a part of the sub-committee to put together a possible recommendation or plan of action. Commissioner Agrawal volunteered to lead the sub-committee.

2. Discussed speaking to owners of the Redlands Mall regarding using the space for paintball games for local youth. Chairperson Ford repeated the idea for those not in attendance at the previous meeting. Commissioner Howard stated that due to the Redlands Mall being private property she did not feel it was reasonable to expect the owners of the mall to allow the property to be used for paintball purposes, as no one has had access to the property for years. It was mentioned that paintball would also get paint all over the property. Commissioner Ruiz stated that she felt it would not be a good use of resources and that it did not align with the commission's purpose of bringing different groups, races, together. Chairperson Ford said that it was aligned in so far as it brought different youth groups together and provided a fun and positive activity. Liaison Redinger stated that Commissioner Ruiz's explanation of the commission's goals was more in line with the HRC mission and purpose. Commissioner Houston used the 2023 HRC Health Fair as an example of how the mission can be accomplished in different ways. Student Commissioner Chau said that there are a number of other public facilities in Redlands that may be willing to host paintball for youth. Chairperson Ford said it was an idea to keep in mind.

Liaison Redinger said we had ten minutes left in the meeting. Chairperson Ford said that he attended a Planning Commission meeting once that lasted over three hours.

3. Discussed HRC Bylaws. Chairperson Ford provided copies of the HRC By-Laws and said that we will discuss them at the January 27, 2024 meeting so that everyone has time to review them.
4. Discussed health fair. The 2023 HRC Health Fair was summarized by Chairperson Ford, along with the idea to make it an annual event.

Commissioner Houston shared ideas of how the reach of the Health Fair could be expanded this year with more groups and educational components, such as presentations, in addition to the resources and vendors from last year's fair. Commissioner Ruiz asked if there was a specific date set. Commissioner Howard said it was a successful event and she feels it should be the same month and weekend every year, the third Saturday in May, for consistency. A motion was made by Student Commissioner Chau to create a sub-committee to plan the Health Fair. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Ford and approved unanimously. Commissioner Agrawal asked if there was a limit on sub-committees or how many a commissioner could participate in. Chairperson Ford said there was not a limit. Student Commissioner Chau volunteered to head the sub-committee and Commissioners Ford, Houston and Agrawal will be on the sub-committee.

5. Discussed HRC election of officers. Commissioner Howard asked if each commissioner could be introduced due to several new members joining this year. Each commissioner introduced themselves: Commissioners Houston, Agrawal, Aranda, Ford, Howard, Ruiz, Chau and City Liaison Redinger. Commissioner Aranda asked if the elections could be postponed to the planning meeting due to the limited time in the meeting left. Commissioner Ford stated that the purpose of the elections at the present meeting was due to the fact that it is a public meeting, whereas the planning retreat is not a public meeting. Liaison Redinger also reminded the commission that in the by-laws it states the elections must be held in January. While the planning meeting is in January, the next public meeting would not be. Commissioner Howard nominated Chairperson Ford to continue as Chairperson and Ford accepted the nomination. Commissioner Aranda seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Commissioner Houston nominated Commissioner Aranda for Vice-Chairperson and Aranda accepted the nomination. Chairperson Ruiz seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Student Commissioner Chau asked if a member can nominate themselves. Commissioner Ford made a motion for Student Commissioner Chau to be Secretary, but Chau clarified he was hoping for the Treasurer position. Commissioner Agrawal said she was interested in the Secretary position. Commissioner Ford nominated Commissioner Agrawal for Secretary and she accepted the nomination. Commissioner Howard seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously. Commissioner Ford nominated Student Commissioner Chau for Treasurer. Student Commissioner Chau asked what the duties were of Treasurer. Chairperson Ford explained keeping track of finances, fundraising and communicating with the city regarding those things. Student Commissioner Chau accepted the nomination, Commissioner Howard seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussed HRC annual report to the City Council when discussing the annual retreat earlier in the meeting.

Chairperson Ford made a correction on Commissioner Ruiz's telephone contact information, which was inaccurate on the updated rosters provided to members at the meeting. He reminded members that as commission members, our contact information is public record.

Chairperson Ford reminded members that the next non-public meeting is the annual HRC planning retreat at noon on January 27, 2024 at the Redlands Community Center at 111 Washington St. He recommended bringing a bag lunch and water. Commissioner Howard suggested a potluck. Commissioner Ruiz recommended keeping potluck items simple. Commissioner Howard said she would bring plates, napkins, forks.

I. Old Business: None

J. Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting

K. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Aranda reported earlier during discussion of fundraising that we had approximately \$800.

L. Staff Report: None

M. Council Report: None

N. Adjournment

1. Chairperson Ford adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.
2. Next regular meeting will be held **March 11, 2024 at 6:30pm.**