



~ M I N U T E S ~

SPECIAL MEETING/RETREAT

City of Redlands Human Relations Commission

Lugonia Room, Community Senior Center, 111 Lugonia Avenue, Redlands, CA

Saturday, January 10, 2015

PRESENT: Ed Gomez, Chair, presiding; Gail Howard, Vice Chair; Carole Coley, Secretary; Commissioners Judith Ashton, Evelyn Maldonado, Swathi Balaji (Student)

ABSENT: Gretchen Andrews, Donald Singer, Venegas, Staff Liaison Green.

Addendum to attendance: New Student Commissioner Swathi Balaji, a junior at Redlands High School, introduced herself to those present followed by introductions of each Commissioner. Attending as a guest was Riverside County Deputy District Attorney S. E. Ballard, a new resident of Redlands desirous to know more about the Commission as well as the functioning of the City of Redlands.

I. CALL TO ORDER

After a quorum was established, the meeting opened at 9:27 AM

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

An addition to the agenda was requested under agenda item **V. Presentations/ Discussions**, (e). Assignments to Local Officials. Afterwards, *the Commission by formal motion approved* the meeting agenda.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Commission by formal motion approved without corrections the minutes of the November 17 meeting.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. Election of Officers

The following were elected by the body to serve for calendar year 2015: Ed Gomez, Chair; Gail Howard, Vice Chair; Carole Coley, Secretary

B. Goals for 2015/Committees

Prior to creating sub-committees for 2015, goals were established as immediate, three-month, and long range.

(Note: Please see chart on pages four and five of these minutes.)

c) Calendaring of 2015 Meetings

The Commission will continue to meet every other month on the third Monday. Following is the 2015 calendar: **March 23; May 18; July 20; September 21; November 16.**

Because of the infrequency of our meeting calendar, it was agreed that each Commissioner make an effort to attend one or more event in the city to maintain visibility and community involvement.

d) Community Survey

This item seems to have stalled due to the lack of an experienced professional to quantify the results of a survey. No decision as yet has been made regarding this issue.

e) Assignments to Local Officials

Each Commissioner was assigned a local official. Following are the assignments: RSUD Superintendent Lori Rhodes (Balaji); Councilmember Pat Gilbreath (Ashton); City Manager Enrique Martinez (Coley); Police Chief Mark Garcia and Fire Chief Jeff Frazier (Gomez); Mayor Paul Foster (Gail Howard); Councilmember Jon Harrison (Maldonado); Councilmember Paul Barich (Singer).

The Chair recommended that within the next month contact be made to inform the official that you are their liaison to the Commission and request and welcome from them any suggestions they may have in making the HRC more meaningful to the community.

VI. REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

None.

B. Commissioners' Reports

Ashton attended the annual Redlands Interfaith Council Thanksgiving and reported that more than \$2,000 was collected from those in attendance. The collection was donated to Redlands Family Service Association.

Ashton, Coley, Howard, and Maldonado participated in the RPD Annual Holiday Block Party and also the RPD's annual Shop With A Cop at Target where each child had \$125 to spend on items they selected. Howard was credited for raising approximately \$15,000 for this effort.

Gomez gave a poignant account of his participation in a Mexican Christmas tradition known as Las Posadas. He noted that several churches were involved and children learned songs in Spanish. Gomez also participated in a Kwanzaa event.

Balaji reported that her COMPACT Club had prepared boxes of food for farmworkers and fed homeless individuals during the holidays.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

With the beginning of a new calendar year, sub-committees and their chairs were established as follows: Public Relations (Ashton); Youth and Education (Balaji); Social Justice (Coley); Community Services (Howard); César Chávez Scholarship Breakfast (Venegas). It is significant to note that these sub-committees are exempt from the Brown Act and therefore can select as many community members as the sub-committee chairs deem necessary.

For the Public Relations Sub-Committee, Ashton agreed to meet with Toni Momberger, *Redlands Daily Facts*, to assure that any information the Commission desires to publicize will have a prominent spot in the publication.

Ashton suggested that environmental issues, e.g., climate change, should be included on the agenda for the Social Justice Sub-Committee. She will also be drafting a letters to city-supported senior centers in Redlands regarding holding LGBT meetings for the residents and others who would be interested in attending.

Coley reported that she had received an email from Officer Green stating that effective March 2, 2015 Officer Chris Mead will be replacing her as HRC Staff Liaison. ***(Note: Officer Mead has been added to the current HRC roster.)***

IX. STAFF REPORT

None

X. OPEN DISCUSSION

Howard shared information she found online that revealed the City of Redlands as a 'sundown' town, one which was purposely kept all-white and would demand by law that Blacks (and sometimes other races) left the town by sundown. Chair Gomez noted that a check would be made with the City Attorney to see if indeed such a law remains on the book and if it does, the City Code needs to be immediately amended to remove the racist code.

Chair Gomez again thanked Atty. Ballard for attending and participating in the discussions and asked for continued involvement with the Commission.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. with the next meeting scheduled for March 23, 2015 in Council Chambers unless otherwise notified.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Coley, Secretary
January 29, 2015

TIME FRAME	GOAL	INDIVIDUAL/COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE
IMMEDIATE	<p>In April, Balaji will hold a malnutrition awareness event to inform children and adults of the implications of malnutrition. Balaji will organize cultural events and distribute coloring kits and healthy snacks to kids, sponsored by various organizations in Redlands and the Human Relations Commission. <i>Note: Balaji's project focus has since changed since the date of our meeting to the following:</i> In April, Balaji will hold a malnutrition awareness event to inform children and adults of the implications of malnutrition. Balaji will organize cultural events and distribute coloring kits and healthy snacks to kids, sponsored by various organizations in Redlands and supported by the Human Relations Commission.</p>	Swathi Balaji /Youth Services
IMMEDIATE	<p>Hold a forum on race in a two-part series. Suggested plans are to meet with council and police sometime within in the next three months in an effort to get a 'buy-in' or commitment to supporting the holding of such a forum.</p>	Gomez, Coley (Social Justice)
IMMEDIATE	<p>Attempt to locate a printer who will assist the Redlands Charitable Resource Coalition in another printing of a resource guide for Redlands' homeless. The initial design and layout of the small 4'x4' booklet and printing was initially done courtesy of Redlands Noon Kiwanis Club.</p>	Ashton, Howard (Community Services)
THREE-MONTH	<p>To help create more visibility in the community, it was suggested that while participating in community events, Commissioners wear T-shirts emblazoned with its name and the City seal. The City Clerk needs to be contacted regarding the use of the seal. Cost estimates for printing and T-shirt purchases are needed.</p>	Gomez to contact City Clerk or Attorney; Maldonado will check on pricing.
THREE-MONTH	<p>Participate in holiday meal servings for homeless and/or indigent individuals and families in Redlands. Howard</p>	Howard (Community Services)

	agreed to find out which local charitable organizations/churches provide these meals. Thanksgiving Day and Easter were suggested.	
LONG RANGE	Plan and hold a Martin Luther King essay or oratorical contest for middle school students slated for Black History month (February 2016) offering a cash prize to the winner(s). Fundraising is necessary for cash prizes and meetings RUSD officials and/or middle school principals are needed to effectuate this contest.	Coley (Social Justice); Howard (Community Service); All Commissioners
LONG RANGE	By the fall of this year the second part of the community conversation on race forum will be held. The event will be widely publicized, inviting all, particularly community organizations and the faith community. Engaging and informed speakers/panelists on suggested topics such as institutional racism, racial biases, criminal justice, medicine, and education need to be immediately sought out as well as a location and established dates for both sessions.	Coley (Social Justice); All Commissioners
LONG RANGE	For calendar year 2016 the Commission will consider nominations from all Commissioners for an annual Humanitarian of the Year Award. Criteria has yet to be established. All Commissioners are to participate in determining criteria.	All Commissioners