



~ MINUTES ~

City of Redlands Human Relations Commission  
Redlands City Hall/Council Chambers - 35 Cajon St. Redlands CA  
5:45 PM – Monday, July 20, 2015

**PRESENT:** Ed Gomez, Chair, presiding; Gail Howard, Vice Chair; Carole Coley, Secretary; Commissioners Gretchen Andrews, Judith Ashton, Evelyn Maldonado, Donald Singer, Ronald Venegas; Council Liaison Paul Barich; **ABSENT:** Swathi Balaji (on vacation abroad), Staff Liaison Officer Chris Mead (Officer Elizabeth Green stood in for Officer Mead).

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

After a quorum was established, the meeting opened at 5:48 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 May meeting.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

None

**VI. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

None

**VII. REPORTS**

A. Committee Reports:

*Social Justice:* Commissioner Ashton briefly reported on the 2015 Citizens' Climate Lobby International Conference that she attended and shared a pamphlet of the event.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Review of Annual Goals

The secretary was asked to read the intermediate/three-month/long-range goals that were set at the January 2015 retreat meeting and determine the status of those goals based on the commissioner(s) responsible for their implementation. Results follow:

~IMMEDIATE GOALS~

*Youth Services:* (Swathi Bathi) Goal was successfully completed.

*Social Justice:* (Gomez and Coley) Secure commitment to supporting the holding a forum on race. Goal is incomplete but still in planning stage.

*Community Services:* (Ashton, Howard) Locate a printer who will assist the Redlands Charitable Resource Coalition in another printing of a resource guide for Redlands' homeless. Ashton reported that there are enough pamphlets available so no further printing is necessary. Goal completed.

~THREE-MONTH GOALS~

*Shirts for Commissioners:* (Gomez, Maldonado). Secure approval from City to use the city seal; obtain cost estimates for printing either T-shirts or Polo shirts. Goal partly met. Approval from the City on the use of the seal has been obtained. Cost estimates on the shirts and printing is not yet completed. It was suggested that we attempt to find a local supplier.

**Community Services:** (Howard) Determine which local charitable organizations/churches provide meals to homeless during the holidays so that commissioners could participate. Goal is in progress.

~LONG-RANGE GOALS~

**Social Justice/Community Service:** (Coley, Howard, all commissioners) 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). Contact with middle school principals on the MLK essay contest is needed as well as ideas for fundraising. A written essay rather than oratorical contest has been decided. No other progress was reported. Officer Green offered her assistance in getting this project off the ground.

**Social Justice:** (Coley). 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. Gomez offered to assist Coley in meeting this goal.

**Humanitarian of the Year Award:** (All Commissioners) For calendar year 2016 the Commission will consider nominations from all Commissioners for an annual Humanitarian of the Year Award. Gomez asked that commissioners bring their nominations to the next regular meeting. ***(It should be noted that no criteria have been established for this award.)***

B. "Black Lives Matter" Public Discussion

**The Commission by formal motion approved** planning a special meeting to discuss the Black Lives Matter movement. Council member Paul Barich offered his assistance in helping to arrange use of Council Chambers on a designated date so that a special public meeting could be held. A date for this special meeting will be publicly announced.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

The HRC has received a request from Pastor Carlo Alce, proprietor of Dhat Island, to speak at our September 21 meeting on the "Haiti Sister City" campaign and Dhat Island's efforts to organize a homeless feeding effort. This request will be granted.

**X. STAFF REPORT**

It was reported that Police Chief Garcia welcomes and encourages the HRC to become involved in its homeless "Positive Change" campaign.

**XI. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Council member Barich was thanked by the commission for attending and assisting. Commissioner Andrews requested to serve on the Social Justice Committee. ***(Note: There are currently three commissioners on this sub-committee. Since the Brown Act prevents more than three commissioners serving on a sub-committee, her request cannot be granted; rather, as a commissioner she is free to offer suggestions to the committee.)***

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for 5:45 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2015 in Council Chambers unless otherwise notified.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Coley, Secretary  
August 26, 2015