

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 14, 2011

Attendance: Sue Beecher, Neil Chikazawa, Jenna Finley, Jan Groom, Tobias Guzmán, David Munoz, Michael Simmons, Val Smythe and Staff representatives Sharon McCabe and Captain Jack Statler

David Munoz was welcomed as a new member to the Commission.

Minutes from the January meeting were approved as submitted.

Secure Communities – Tobias advised that he had been contacted by Kit Chalberg with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding their community Relations Service in support of secure communities. The contact was in response to concerns with community conflict issues in Greeley that had made news – the specific issue was Brett Reese and the KUNC radio station programs on Martin Luther King Jr. The DOJ program can provide guidance in terms of reaching out to the community to resolve issues and tensions and assist with programs that enable community members to feel safe, talk to each other, and not be at odds with each other. The service is at no cost. Commission members agreed to invite Mr. Chalberg to the April meeting to provide more information on what the DOJ can do and whether they could also assist with a community assessment survey.

Community Read – Christy Shirazi although absent was asking for HRC involvement in the community read program. In continuing with the mission of the Commission to promote respect, understanding, appreciation and harmony among members of our community, Christy suggests the HRC takes an active role in the community read. The book, Your Blues Ain't Like Mine by Bebe Moore Campbell was selected by Dr. Anita Fleming-Rife. What Christy envisions is to get as many people in our community as possible to read the book and then get together with others to discuss it. The job of the HRC would be to help promote the community read and put together "traveling totes" containing approx. 6-10 books, suggested discussion questions, and instructions on passing the totes forward. Several of these totes could be distributed around town; a web site could be set up for people to blog about the book and keep a record of how many people are participating in the community read. Several UNC professors are on the committee and they would like volunteers from the HRC. Michael Simmons volunteered to serve on this committee. The Commission had several questions: have books been ordered? Who is going to purchase the books? Tobias stated that UNC will support purchase of the books. Christy has collected \$170 from donations for the decals for the purchase of the books.

HRC Logo – After discussion, members agreed that the best direction would be to use the current logo for the time being and focus efforts on mission, goals and a community assessment. This does not mean that a new logo will not be developed but it will be reviewed in conjunction with the mission review and establishment of goals.

Littler Youth Fund grants – Christy Shirazi had requested that the HRC discuss a possible grant opportunity through the Littler Youth Fund. These grants are given to youth-oriented programs through Greeley and Weld. Christy asked if this would be something to consider for funding for the 2012 MLK event. Sharon offered to send the information to Nickie Archibeque as she has a background in grant writing to determine what she thought of this program and whether she would be available to write the grant. Tobias asked that Nickie's response be communicated to him and if she wasn't able to be involved in writing the grant, there may be someone at UNC that could be involved. Community Foundation was also mentioned as a possible grant opportunity.

Sharon reported that Loren Shanks had submitted his resignation from the Commission due to a recent job change and his inability to attend meetings as he would be traveling quite a bit. The terms of several members some of whom were appointed to fulfill the terms of other members are scheduled to expire in May, 2011 and members will need to reapply (Christy Shirazi, Neil Chikazawa, Jenna Finley, Michael Simmons). Forms are available in the City Clerk's Office or Sharon will bring to the March meeting. Jan Groom's term also expires in May but she is term-limited and not eligible to reapply.

Martin Luther King Day Event Review:

- All agreed that the program was an overwhelming success
- Attendance was over 1000
- Committee work should start earlier – September
- There were technical difficulties with sound system
- Garbage bags were not available for the youth group that offered to pick up trash
- Police Department preparation was evident and very appreciated
- Costs and donations:
 - Dominique Dawes appearance - \$7,883
 - Donations solicited and obtained by Christi Shirazi: Weld County Garage, Cementers Well Service, Hensel Phelps, Cache Bank & Trust, Roche Constructors, Envirotech, Shirazi Benefits – Total donations: \$5,000; UNC will cover balance of \$2,883.
- Some concern expressed regarding the process used to select the recipient of the community award
- Suggest that posters be distributed the beginning of January
- Thank you notes – some have already been sent; the remainder will be sent this week

With the MLK event successfully accomplished Tobias suggested that it is now time to move forward on goals. Each member agreed to identify five goals they would like the HRC to address in the next year or two. Tobias suggested “50,000 foot” goals rather than focusing on specific projects. The task for the HRC will then be to agree on the priorities and begin work. Sharon will send members notes from the August 2009 HRC planning session and the September, 2010 retreat facilitated by Dr. Fleming-Rife as resources for members in developing five goals that each member will present at the next meeting. Goal and priority discussion will be the only item on the March agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.