

County of Kern
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION-MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Monday August 15, 2011

Commissioners Present: Kathryn Stobert (ks), Andre Taylor (at), Jewelle Scales (js), Linda Payne (lp), Deborah Hess (dh), Tomeka Powell (tp)

Commissioners Absent: Edward Herrera, Marcus Mitchell, Marisa Banks

Others Present: Erica Stephens, Penny Johnson, William Haywood, Jeremy Tobias, Romala Ramkissoo, Genine Flores, Kevin Keyes, Charles West, Corrine Coats, Bobby Woolard, Tee Daniels, Karen Goh, Pastor Wesson, EEO Officer Michael Goulart (mg)

Meeting called to order at 5:35

JS read Human Relations Commission Vision and Mission Statements

1. FLAG SALUTE 5:40

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Jeremy Tobias, Corrine Coats, and Romala Ramkissoo of Community Action Partnership of Kern discussed some of the functions of CAPK. Ms. Coats said the CAPK will be holding an open house at the newly renovated Friendship House located at 2424 Cottonwood road on August 18, 2011 from 2-8 p.m. Ms. Ramkissoo said the Friendship House will serve many needs in the community and provide a meeting place for various groups including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, WIC and afterschool programs and food programs for children. She also said KAPC is working toward establishing programs for seniors and ESL classes.

Pastor Wesson: Informed the HRC of the upcoming Family Day at the Park sponsored by the Concerned Leaders of the Community. The event will take place on Saturday September 3, 2011 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 18, 2011 regular meeting
Motion: Payne, 2nd: Hess, All Ayes

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Review 2011 Vision Statement
Js-
provided hand out to the HRC and discussed branding, example the Nike "Swoosh". Js asked the HRC how do we want to be identified? What does the HRC want to be known for? What legacy would the HRC like to create? Js discussed creating a Commission that is known as being results-oriented,
- b) Discussed in conjunction with Vision Statement
- c) Goals

Discussion of Goals from pg 7 of handout

Goal 1 increasing BOS presence at HRC meetings.

At-

Recommended each HRC member work with the Supervisor that appointed them to ensure that the Supervisor attends at least one HRC meeting or function.

Dh-

Recommended that HRC members request their Supervisor attend and kick off regional HRC meetings.

Js-

Recommended regional meetings as an opportunity for members of outlying communities to discuss their Human Relations concerns.

Ks-

Asked of the HRC would like the member of the BOS to make a presentation?

Goal 2 increase BOS presence at HRC Events

At-

Asked if there is a date for the HRC essay contest/banquet and said HRC members should lobby for the members of the BOS to attend the “signature” HRC event.

Goal 3 quarterly meetings with the BOS

?

The HRC will have to take the initiative to take HRC issues/concerns to the BOS

Goal 4 secure financial contributions from BOS for HRC events

Mg-

Discussed of the process for the HRC requesting/receiving funding. The HRC is currently funded through the Personnel Dept. and received funding for mileage/travel and publishing/mail.

Stakeholder goal 1 community presence at HRC meetings

Js-

We need community members to attend meetings.

Dh-

Can we have remote access to meetings like the BOS provides in outlying areas?

Infrastructure needs

At-

Do we have a website that is managed?

Js-

Facebook is free/low cost.

Supervisor Karen Goh-

The HRC needs to ask why a person would want to go an HRC website? What is a topic the people will be interested in? what is the compelling reason for someone to be interested in approaching the HRC?

Js-

Branding is an important component in determining why a member of the public would be interested in the HRC.

Dh-

We should partner with collaboratives and other agencies, like City Councils to make the public more aware of the HRC, what we do and why we are here.

Members of the public in attendance were asked by Commissioner Scales what made them interested in attending the meeting. The following are responses to Scales' question:

Tee Daniels-

Stated that she works at Garden Pathways and she is here to find out who the HRC is and what they have to offer the community.

Js-

Cited our recent activity and meeting in the City of Maricopa as an example of how the HRC can get involved in local Human Relations issues, the interest and participation that was generated in the community and the results that may be achieved by the HRC.

At-

Discussed the HRC's advisory role to assist the County and facilitate positive resolutions. He also stated that the County has tough issues that need to be faced.

Js-

Said the HRC should customize the issues that they address based on what the community is telling us that they need.

Mg-

Stated that the Mission Statement of the Human Relations Commission indicates the intent and purpose of the Commission and that the HRC is an "advisory" body that seeks to be a conduit to individuals and organizations in the community in reaching positive resolutions to Human Relations issues.

Js-

Reiterated that branding will help to create public awareness of the HRC.

Tee Daniels-

Stated in relation to the HRC pursuing internet and social media resources, she prefers the face to face approach of organizations that go out into the community and do face-to-face functions.

Ks-

Said that the challenge is twofold. Any marketing is advantageous but the HRC will only develop a reputation by sustaining positive results based on the actions of the Commission.

Lp-

Stated the importance of being in the community at functions such as the Night Out Against Crime, Good Neighbor Festival and Family Day at the Park.

Will Haywood-

Stated that he works at Ebony Counseling Center and he is at the meeting to find out what the HRC does. He is active with the Safe Neighborhood group and attends numerous community meetings. He works with kids in middle school and discussed a recent event that was held to award kids that had gone through a training program.

d) Expectations

Js-

Stated that since membership of the HRC has grown, there is a greater need for all members to become more active to achieve the desired results that the HRC is establishing.

Attendee, Charles West-

There needs to be a reason for people to be interested in the HRC. It would help if someone could go to a website and find Agendas, Minutes, etc...

e) 2011-2012 Events

Discussion of events tabled to September meeting

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Selection of Annual "Theme" for Human Relations Commission
By vote of the Commission "Proud to be an American" selected as annual theme
- b) Bylaw Review, Subcommittee Structure and Assignments
tabled to September meeting
- c) Infrastructure Needs
tabled to September meeting
- d) Discussion of Election of Secretary

tabled to September meeting

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) Community & Media Outreach – Hess, Chair
tabled to September meeting
- b) Education/Essay Contest – Herrera, Chair, Hess
tabled to September meeting
- c) Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action – Commissioner Scales, Chair
tabled to September meeting
- d) Grants/Funding – Commissioner Scales, Chair
tabled to September meeting
- e) Housing – Commissioner Payne, Chair
Erica Stephens from GBLA gave an update to the Commission regarding the Fair Housing Law project that she had previously presented to the HRC. The project received 25 calls during the months of June and July. Additional tester training will be provided on 9/15/11 from 1-5 p.m..
- f) Judicial & Legislative Review – Commissioner Scales, Chair
tabled to September meeting
- g) Law Enforcement - Commissioner Herrera, Chair
tabled to September meeting
- h) Special Issues – Commissioner Scales, Chair
tabled to September meeting
- i) Access and Functional Needs – Commissioner Scales, Chair
tabled to September meeting
- j) Annual Report Ad-hoc Committee –
tabled to September meeting

7. **STAFF REPORT:** This portion of the meeting is reserved for the EEO Officer to present to the Commission and to the public, information, announcements and items that have come to his attention. No formal action will be taken by the Commission.

8. **COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:** On their own initiative, Commission members may make an announcement or a report on their own activities. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda (Government Code Section 54954.2(a)). Commissioners should contact Christy Morley at (661) 868-3930 and advise her of any items to be placed on the agenda, any changes in their work place, home address, or telephone numbers.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Hess 2nd:Stobert, All Ayes