

August 16, 2008
Human Relations Commission
Retreat Notes
Lucie Stern Community Center
Fireside Room
8:30am to 12:30pm

Attendance: Atito, Mendoza, Ezran, Bacchetti, Mora, Savage
Facilitator: Eve Agiewich
Staff: Kathy Espinoza-Howard, Amy Johnson

Oral Communication: None

1. Opening Ice Breaker – I am here % and why?
2. Discussion of HRC Commissioner Roles
 - a. Attend Meetings
 - b. Respect each other and members of the public at meetings by listening, having patience and being prepared.
 - c. Listen to concerns of the community without judgment
 - d. Follow Mission Statement
 - e. Legal limits
 - i. Police officer personnel issues
 - ii. Do not go into other areas of jurisdictions of other commissions
 - f. Involvement
 - i. Issues coming from City Council
 - ii. Issues on housing (affordable and attainable)
 - iii. Issues that are part of the mission statement
 - iv. Issues on wealth/poverty gap
 - v. Areas of involvement are not always clear
 - vi. Should the HRC ask the question, "How does this effect Palo Alto?"
 - vii. HRC is not limited to local issues
 - viii. Resolutions
 1. There are guidelines for Resolutions
 2. Less is More
3. Review of Past Year
 - a. Accomplishments
 - i. Made changes to Mandatory Response Ordinance
 - ii. Palo Alto Mediation Program is out of HSRAP
 - iii. Changed Demographic Data Reporting
 - iv. Created Communication Guidelines
 - v. Passed Immigration Resolution
 - vi. Passed Voter Confidence Resolution

- vii. Created Guidelines for Resolutions
 - viii. Passed Burma Resolution
 - ix. Assisted in getting BMR Equity formula changed
 - x. Continues to collaborate successfully with PAPD
- b. Community Conflicts
- i. Mandarin Immersion
 - ii. Guidelines for Community Conduct
 - iii. Group achieved a sense of accomplishment
 - iv. There are diverse backgrounds among commissioners
 - v. Acknowledge disagreements
 - vi. Minority opinions are not always allowed to be heard
 - vii. Decisions are made without new members hearing all perspectives
4. Community Involvement
- a. Police and HRC:
- i. Needs to foster good community relations
 - ii. Building/Mending community relations with the Police Dept.
 - iii. Police Dept's response to profiling data & the data trends is not adequate/hollow
5. Establish Next Year's Priorities
- a. Community Building
- i. Engage Community/Build Social Capital
 - ii. Visit Non-profits and see programs
 - iii. Youth Involvement/Intergenerational Efforts
 - iv. Proactive to resolve community conflicts
 - v. Transform of Palo Alto Process/Increase Awareness
- b. PAPD & Community Relations
- i. Go on Ride-a-Longs with PAPD
- c. HRC Public Relations
- i. Develop Award Program
 - ii. Continue to publish Articles in local papers
- d. Healthy Communities
- i. Seniors Issues
 - ii. Housing
 - iii. Homelessness
 - iv. Opportunity Center
 - v. Health Care