

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8 **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

9 **Thursday, January 13, 2011**

10 Council Conference Room

11 Palo Alto Civic Center

12 250 Hamilton Avenue

13 7:00 PM

14
15
16
17 **ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present:** Bacchetti, Chen, Ezran, O’Nan, Savage, Verma **Council**
18 **Liaison:** Yiaway Yeh **Staff:** Minka van der Zwaag, Amy Johnson

19
20
21 **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

22
23 Mr. Mark Petersen-Perez announced the launching of his website www.paloaltofreepress.com. He
24 spoke about his difficulty getting information from the City for his website and that he feels he is being
25 discriminated against.

26
27 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

28
29 Commissioner Ezran made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2010. Seconded by
30 Commissioner Verma. AYES: unanimous.

31
32
33 **AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:**

34 None

35
36 **BUSINESS**

37
38 **1. PALO ALTO MEDIATION PROGRAM PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF NEW**
39 **MEDIATORS**

40 Mr. Mark Petersen-Perez, spoke about a past positive experience he had while participating in the
41 program.

42
43 Commissioner O’Nan introduced the program and introduced Mr. Ric Rudman and Ms. Karen Michael
44 who spoke about the recruitment process. They selected 10 applicants to interview, and they had 6
45 openings. They were glad to have 3 male and 3 female candidates because two candidates had dropped
46 out.

47
48 Co-Chair Ms. Judith Moss named the 4 candidates: Aruna Bellary, Jeff Blum, Ellen Bob, and Pam
49 Sturner.

50 **COMMISSIONER O’NAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE 4 NEW MEDIATORS TO**
51 **THE PROGRAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EZRAN, AYES: UNANIMOUS.**

52
53 **2. PRESENTATION/REVIEW OF DRAFT 6-MONTH CALENDAR**

54
55 Ms. van der Zwaag briefly discussed the draft calendar included in the packet and the purpose to help
56 the HRC keep up on its goals. The commissioners agreed to add World Music Day to April’s Agenda.
57 There were no other changes to draft calendar.

58
59
60 **3. EXPLORE INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNICATION AND RELATIONSHIPS:**

61
62 Commissioner Bacchetti discussed the goal of encouraging intergenerational relationships and
63 communication and mentioned an organization called Generations United that works towards seeing that
64 all generations are respected. They have developed strategies to help which can be found on their
65 website: www.gu.org.

66
67 Ms. van der Zwaag said that the Community Services Director, Mr. Greg Betts is setting up a meeting to
68 meet with the executive director.

69
70 Other agencies like the Jewish Community Center and the YMCA were discussed as potential
71 collaborators because they work with multi-generational populations.

72
73 Commissioner Bacchetti suggested that commissioners pair up and make site visits and report back.
74 Commissioners Bacchetti and Chen to visit Avenidas, Commissioners Verma and Savage to visit Palo
75 Alto School District, Commissioner O’Nan to visit Jewish Community Center.

76
77
78 **4. EXPLORE WORKING WITH THE PALO ALTO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO**
79 **ENCOURAGE IT TO BUILD THE 41 DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS INTO**
80 **DEPARTMENT TRAINING**

81
82 Commissioner Bacchetti reported that Mr. Rob deGeus, Division Manager of Recreation and Golf, gave
83 a great presentation to the Citizen’s Advisory Group. It was well received and sparked an animated
84 discussion. Among the conclusions was a readiness to revisit this program after the survey results of
85 4,075 Palo Alto youth and teens have been compiled and analyzed for conclusion relevant to agencies
86 and groups in the city. Commissioners Savage and Ezran were also in attendance.

87
88 **5. REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON PRIORITIES**

89
90 Commissioner Verma reported that at the Youth Council meeting she learned of some of the members
91 participated in an event called the “Big Tent Conference” in Texas which discussed the 41
92 Developmental Assets. Students suggested that teachers need to be trained on the assets so they can
93 teach and encourage youth to participate in the assets.

94
95 There was a brief discussion about the recent Parade of Champions honoring the Palo Alto High School
96 Football team and girls Volleyball team. The need to honor youth in areas other than sports was
97 discussed, and Commissioner Ezran urged initiative in seeing when options to do so might be found.

99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

None

7. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:

A. Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Savage reported that she attended the Citizen’s Advisory Group. She also met with her Council buddy.

Commissioner Ezran spoke about setting up site visits for HSRAP agencies and how he found that to be valuable when he first joined the HRC. Ms. van der Zwaag shared her concern that some agencies may view this action as unfair if not all sites are visited, since the decision process is underway.

Commissioner Bacchetti suggested deferring any visits until the “Needs Assessment” begins.

Commissioner Bacchetti reported that he attended a social/emotional learning presentation which highlighted the process of “QPR” - Question, Persuade and Refer which helps people identify and help potentially suicidal people. He also reported that he is the co-chair of the City’s Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission.

Commissioner O’Nan met with her council buddy, Gail Price. They discussed the need to have more interface with City Council. She also reported that she attended the Palo Alto Mediation Program’s monthly meeting.

B. Council Buddy Reports: None

C. Council Liaison Report: None

D. Staff Liaison Report:

Ms. van der Zwaag reported that Councilmember Price will be the new Council Liaison. She also announced the upcoming Martin Luther King community event on Lytton Plaza and she invited everyone to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Presentation from staff regarding 41 Developmental Assets and aspects of youth well being.
Explore intergenerational communication and relationships
HSRAP Update

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.