



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Thursday, April 11, 2013
Council Conference Room
Palo Alto Civic Center
250 Hamilton Avenue
7:00 PM

ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present: Bacchetti, Chen, Ezran, Morin, O’Nan, Savage
Councilmember: Liz Kniss **Staff:** Adam Howard, Amy Johnson

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Commissioner Bacchetti made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected of the February 28, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Ezran. AYES: Unanimous. Commissioner Morin abstained.

Commissioner Bacchetti made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Chen. AYES: Unanimous. Commissioner Morin abstained.

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:
Items 1 and 2 were reversed.

BUSINESS

1. LEARNING SERIES ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING (PART 1) PRESENTATION BY MARTIN EICHNER, PALO ALTO MEDIATION PROGRAM:

Mr. Eichner, provided handouts and presented through PowerPoint a summary of various low income rental housing programs. He also provided a list of all affordable rental housing in the Santa Clara County. He explained that the information is an introduction only. He summarized aspects of BMR (Below Market Rate) housing and Section 8 vouchers.

Under Section 8, the renter pays 30% of their income from all sources.

43 Affordable housing properties tend to be based on tax credits and are owned by private developers or
44 investment groups and managed by non profit organizations.

45 With BMR housing programs, a certain number of the units are set aside to be rented at a below market
46 rate. The City of Palo Alto has an ordinance that requires this in new developments.

47 Low income is considered 80% of local median income and very low income considered 50% of the
48 local median income; he provided the current county income limits. Applicants have no financial
49 privacy and must disclose all information. Often, they must renew and provide the information annually.
50 They are almost always subject to a waiting list. He discussed qualifications for the programs and
51 provided some examples from local area. He explained that there are 17,000 current Santa Clara County
52 Section 8 vouchers in use with 25,000 households on the waiting list.

53
54 He said he hoped that the information he provided was helpful and gave them a better sense of what
55 types of affordable housing programs are available.

56
57 He answered questions about who sets laws and governs the number of vouchers in use, and whether or
58 not homeless people can qualify for programs like these. Mr. Eichner explained that the generating legal
59 documents set the criteria; that anyone can qualify if they have a steady income; they do not have to
60 have a job. The difficulty lies in that they are competing for the same number of units.

61
62
63 **2. PRESENTATION OF “BORDERLESS DREAMS” VIDEO BY MOUNTAIN VIEW DAY**
64 **WORKER CENTER:**

65
66 Mr. Angel Santuario shared a portion of a video documentary with stories of a few individuals who
67 immigrated to the local area from Mexico. Ms. Maria Marroquin, Executive Director of the Center was
68 introduced as well as the individuals in the video who were in attendance.

69
70 (Councilmember Kniss arrived during the video presentation).

71
72 After the video was shown, Mr. Santuario asked the commissioners for their impressions of the video.
73 Commissioners commented on how the video displayed the immigrants’ bravery; how they are not so
74 dissimilar from the people who were born here because we all share the same desire to survive and
75 provide for our children.

76
77 Mr. Santuario explained that the documentary was created with the help of the Media Center as well as
78 their staff and the individuals who shared their personal experiences in the video. They hope it shows
79 the human side, instead of just the statistics that are most often presented to the general public. He
80 asked for the help of the HRC to promote the video and their services. He answered questions from the
81 commissioners about how the program works. Their primary work is to connect day workers with
82 employers, but they also offer growth opportunities such as ESL (English as a Second Language)
83 classes. Commissioner Chen asked about whether or not they provide Workers Compensation Insurance
84 for the workers. They do not, because most of the employers are homeowners or renters who hire help
85 on their properties. It is a risk the workers take when they work.

86
87 Ms. Marroquin, said that she has been the Executive Director of the Mountain View Day Workers
88 Center for the last 12 years. Besides being located in Mountain View, they have a great relationship
89 with the cities of Los Altos and Palo Alto. The workers who they help find jobs for are usually matched
90 in jobs for light construction, painting, and landscaping. However, some of the workers have more
91 specialized skills such as upholstery or electrical. She spoke about their supporters and neighbors. They

92 acquired their own building in 2010 at 113 Escuela Ave. Mountain View. The City of Mountain View
93 recently allowed them to expand their hours of operation to 7am to 9pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and
94 Fridays.

95 Councilmember Kniss suggested that the commissioners visit the center, and that it has been
96 extraordinarily successful.

97
98 Ms. Marroquin answered questions of the commissioners regarding immigration reform and if they can
99 help the homeless. As for how immigration reform may affect them, she plans to continue to be
100 involved in helping workers learn and grow their skills. She also explained that not all the workers they
101 help are Hispanic as many expect, but that they do see people from many countries or even people who
102 were born here that come into the center to find jobs. Some of the workers they help she considers to be
103 homeless because they may live in such crowded conditions such as sleeping on the kitchen floor or in
104 their cars. They are trying to help homeless break the cycle because being homeless is not good for their
105 health. She asked for help from the HRC by: endorsing public screenings of their documentary; hire
106 workers, or share skills they have with the workers so they can learn new skills. She thanked the
107 commissioners for the opportunity to share their documentary.

108
109
110 **3. DISCUSSION OF SUPPORT LETTER FOR CITY GRANT APPLICATION FOR**
111 **ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE PROJECTS AT BAYLANDS SAIL STATION:**

112
113 Mr. Adam Howard explained that Supervising Ranger Richard Bicknell is planning to apply for a grant
114 for approximately \$75,000 for improvements and necessary ADA upgrades to the Baylands Sail Station.
115 The construction estimate is currently being prepared by the city.

116
117 The commissioners agreed to support the cause, but they could not approve the letter the way it was
118 written. They would like to see more content in the letter and had questions that staff was not able to
119 answer. Mr. Howard said he would take the comments back to Ranger Bicknell.

120
121
122 **4. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:**

123
124 **A. Commissioner Reports:**

125 Commissioner Chen reported that she attended a QPR (Question, Persuade, and Response) class.

126
127 Commissioner Ezran reported that he checking online and found that Catholic Charities had changed
128 their volunteer's requirements, which he attributed to the HRC.

129
130 Commissioner Savage congratulated Commissioner Bacchetti for being the recipient of the Palo Alto
131 Tall Tree Award the previous night.

132
133 Commissioner Morin reported that she attended the class offered by the city for fundraising and it was
134 great.

135
136 Commissioners O'Nan and Ezran attended the same class.

137
138 **B. Council Buddy Reports:**

139 None

141 **C. Council Liaison Report:**

142 Councilmember Kniss was pleased to see the presentation tonight and she encouraged the
143 commissioners to visit the center. She said that Ms. Marroquin is a remarkable person. The center has
144 received a great deal of support, which she finds fascinating.

145

146 **D. Staff Liaison Report:**

147 None

148

149

150 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

151 None

152

153

154 **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

155 Update from Palo Alto Mediation Program

156 Update on Countywide HRC Breakfast

157

158

159 **ADJOURNMENT**

160 The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.