



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, May 9, 2013
Council Conference Room
Palo Alto Civic Center
250 Hamilton Avenue
7:00 PM

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Chen, Ezran, Morin, O’Nan
Absent: Bacchetti, Savage
Staff: Minka van der Zwaag, Amy Johnson

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

City of Palo Alto Supervising Ranger Richard Bicknell provided additional information regarding the ADA requested upgrades and repairs at Baylands Nature Preserve facilities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:

None

BUSINESS

1. Learning Series on Affordable Housing (Part 2) Presentation by Tim Wong, City of Palo Alto Planning and Community Environment Department

Mr. Tim Wong provided a history of the Below Market Rate (BMR) Housing program and explained it is administered by the Palo Alto Housing Corporation. All new housing developments are required to provide a percentage of the units at below market rate. Funding for units comes from in lieu fees charged to developers. Mr. Wong said he reviews proposals that come in and the supply of funding does

not meet the demand. He also spoke about AB1299 which returns BMR rentals to local control. There was a brief discussion about how rents are calculated for BMR rental units and how the current manner of calculating rent makes it difficult for lower income residents to afford the rent.

Public Comment:

Mr. J. West explained that residents seem to be paying more than they should in rent. When residents ask the management company to provide backup, they don't, which seems deceptive to him.

2. Update on Palo Alto Mediation Program

Chair O’Nan introduced the two co-chairs of the Palo Alto Mediation Program, Ms. Dyane Matas and Ms. Gill Barsley. They announced a new book that has been published, written by Palo Alto Mediator Elizabeth Siemen titled “Conflict, The Unexpected gift”. They summarized the recent report regarding the Mandatory Response Program and discussed the process for handling disputes. They have 25 mediators and they handled 11 cases. They answered questions regarding mandatory vs. voluntary mediations and provided clarification of the stats in the report.

3. Update on Countywide HRC Breakfast

Chair O’Nan spoke about the status of the agenda for the upcoming breakfast and that she had invited Mayor Greg Scharff and had hoped to get Former State Senator Joe Simitian to speak, but he is not available and is sending his policy aide. She is hoping that Council Liaison Liz Kniss will attend. Ms. van der Zwaag reported that 22 people have RSVP’d to attend. Chair O’Nan reminded everyone that the breakfast will be held at Lucie Stern on May 15th at 8am. The focus will be on how HRC’s can collaborate more with local government. There will also as be time for networking.

4. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:

A. Commissioner Reports:

Chair O’Nan reported that she and Commissioner Bacchetti met with Mayor Scharff and discussed a variety of topics. She also reported that Commissioner Bacchetti attended the City/School Liaison Committee meeting and shared the HRC’s opinion that the children living at the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park be able to continue attending PAUSD schools after the park is sold and the residents relocated.

Commissioner Ezran gave an update on World Music Day. 40 musicians have signed up to perform including the Redwood City Symphony, which is a new addition to the event this year.

B. Council Buddy Reports:

None

C. Council Liaison Report:

None

D. Staff Liaison Report:

Ms. van der Zwaag reported on the following:

- 92 • Finance Committee recommended adding \$55,323 to the Human Services Resource
- 93 Allocation Process (HSRAP) funding. She will meet with HSRAP subcommittee to discuss
- 94 options on how to allocate this additional funding and will bring it back to the HRC at a
- 95 future meeting.
- 96 • The Finance Committee agreed to move forward with staff funding recommendation for
- 97 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
- 98 • The vehicle dwelling issue will be discussed at Policy and Services on May 14th at 7pm.
- 99 • The Relocation Impact Report re: Buena Vista Mobile Home Park is now available.
- 100 • City Council will be conducting interviews for open HRC vacancies.

101

102

103 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

104 None

105

106

107 **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

108 Learning Series on Affordable Housing (Part 3) Presentation by Palo Alto Housing Corporation.

109

110

111 **ADJOURNMENT**

112 The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.