



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Council Conference Room

Palo Alto Civic Center

250 Hamilton Avenue

7:00 PM

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Bacchetti, Ezran, Morin, O’Nan, Savage, Stone

Absent: Commissioner Chen

Staff: Minka van der Zwaag, Debbie Park

ORAL COMMUNICATION

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:

None

BUSINESS

1. Learning Series on Affordable Housing (Part 7) Presentation by Shiloh Ballard, Vice President of Community and Housing Development for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Ms. van der Zwaag introduced Shiloh Ballard, Senior Vice President, Housing & Community Development for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

Ms. Ballard thanked the HRC for the invitation to give a presentation about affordable housing and gave a quick overview of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, comparing it to a high tech trade association. The vision was to bring businesses together to engage in public policy issues such as: housing, transportation, environment, healthcare; essentially anything that impacts community business, and community’s ability to recruit top talent.

Ms. Ballard discussed housing as the top impediment to doing business in Santa Clara Valley. They

Approved

43 advocate for more housing and more affordable housing. Ms. Ballard said that businesses
44 understand the link between economic development and the cost of living issues and the ability to
45 thrive in Silicon Valley. The issue of affordable housing is a problem of imbalance between supply
46 and demand and more housing built near jobs, services, and transit. They advocate for apartments,
47 condominiums and townhomes. Density in the right places.

48
49 Ms. Ballard provided statistics of very low income and low income families. The standard reason for
50 community opposition is growth, change and fiscal impacts.

51
52 Ms. Ballard answered questions from the commissioners and staff.

53
54 Ms. Ballard discussed the importance of being able to have every income level able to live here. She
55 commented on how San Francisco voters approved a sales tax measure that would fund affordable
56 housing.

57
58 Public Comment:

59 Ms. Edie Keating spoke of the need to protect the most vulnerable in low income affordable housing.
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61 **2. Update on HRC Subcommittees**

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63 Commissioners O’Nan, Ezran and Stone will work to outline priorities, and assess unmet human
64 service’s needs.

65 They will meet in couple of weeks to develop a work plan. One idea is to interview current HSRAP
66 agencies.

67
68 Commissioner Bacchetti reported that the Affordable Housing subcommittee met and split up the
69 tasks.

70
71 Commissioner Savage reported that her committee will meet this month and have a work plan by the
72 end of year which will raise the profile of the HRC.

73 74 75 **3. Update on HSRAP Site Visits**

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77 The commissioners discussed how to divide up the list of HSRAP grantees in order to visit as many
78 sites as possible. One commissioner will take the lead in coordinating the visit, if others want to
79 attend also.

- 80
- 81 • InnVision – O’Nan
82 Philip Dah will get a van and lead a tour of various sites. She invited City Council and members
83 on the Palo Alto homeless services task force; there are still spots open in the van for others.
 - 84 • Adolescent Counseling Services: Savage and Bacchetti
 - 85 • Palo Alto Housing: Bacchetti, Morin
 - 86 • Avenidas, Palo Alto Community Child Care, Community Technology Alliance, Mayview
87 Health Clinic, Senior Adults Legal Aide: Ezran, Morin and Stone
- 88

89 Commissioners discussed that they would let each other know when planning their site visits, so that
90 commissioners are not visiting the agency on their own, which is difficult for the providers.

Approved

91 Important to be formal and respect the agency and staff time. Let agency know that visit is not an
92 audit.

94 4. Follow up discussion on “Made in America” Program

95
96 Commissioner Bacchetti explained the project, which is a collection of stories and experiences. This
97 is a community building effort and not a documentary. He urged everyone to participate.

99 5. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS:

101 A. Commissioner Reports:

102 Commissioner Bacchetti reported that he and Commissioner Morin attended “Stop the Ban” group
103 meeting.

104
105 Commissioner Ezran attended community event focused on knowing your neighbors. He also
106 attended the Palo Alto Firefighter’s pancake breakfast benefitting Project Safety Net and reported
107 that it was well attended. ~~He also attended the Palo Alto Firefighter’s pancake breakfast benefitting~~
108 ~~Project Safety Net and that it was well attended.~~

110 B. Council Buddy Reports:

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112 Commissioner Stone met with Councilmember Price; they discussed the issue of homelessness.
113 He and Commissioner Bacchetti mentioned that the Palo Alto homeless service task force is trying
114 to put together a systematic strategy.

115
116 Commissioner Savage met with Councilmember Klein, discussed the Opportunity Center, Youth
117 well-being, and Project Safety Net.

120 C. Council Liaison Report:

121 None

123 D. Staff Liaison Report:

124 Ms. van der Zwaag reported on the following:

- 125 • She expressed enthusiasm for the three committee working on this year’s HRC priorities
- 126 • Asked if okay to start the December HRC meeting earlier to allow time for holiday social - get
127 together after meeting, at a local restaurant.
- 128 • Discussed future agenda item: Consideration of whether PACCC and Avenidas to be general
129 service providers with the City of Palo Alto instead of funding through HSRAP.

131 ANNOUNCEMENTS

132 None

134 CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS

- 135 • Moving Avenidas and Palo Alto Community Child Care out of HSRAP Funding

137 ADJOURNMENT

138 The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.