

Minutes: Human Rights Commission, Salt lake City, Utah

Meeting Held: MAarch3, 2008

Room 336: City-County Building

PRESENT: Adriano Comollo, Yolanda Francisco-Nez, Cristy Gleave, Chair, Orin Howell, Walter Jones, Jennifer Mayer-Glenn, and Mimi Pedersen

Excused: Patrick Leary, member

Agenda Attached

1. Action Items

A. Cristy will put on April's agenda the current human rights ordinance and will contact everyone quickly to find out their opinions.

B. Cristy will contact the mayor's office to invite the city attorney to attend an HRC meeting to discuss HRC responsibilities and actions

C. Orin will contact Yolanda on the question of who might conduct diversity training at the airport.

D. Jennifer will create a statement to go to Mayor Ralph Becker regarding vendors. This needs to be done in one week. Cristy will review it and send it to Yolanda. Jenny will integrate HRC members' ideas into the statement before sending it to Cristy.

E. Mimi will see what the HRC can do request that HRC have a seat on the state's MLK HRC. She will contact Michael Styles while Yolanda will contact the Civilian Review Board to see about having SLC's HRC getting a seat on that Board. It is possible also to give these agencies a seat on SLC's HRC. Mimi stated that this is a way to build a partnership.

F. Cristy will talk to Rebecca Sanchez from the County's Office of Diversity to learn how the county evaluates its Human Rights Commission successes. She will also perhaps talk to Michael Styles regarding this.

G. Cristy will put the current vendor ordinance on HRC's next agenda and will send out the agenda to everyone as soon as possible.

H. Yolanda will ask the mayor's office about a possible press release regarding the vendor issue. She has not seen one but feels it is a courtesy to the mayor's office to show it any press releases before issuing them.

I. Cristy will talk to the chairperson of the Planning Commission to get advice on how that Commission is able to have so much clout with the City Council. She will discuss how they have developed their influence.

2. Discussion Items

A. HRC members talked about the necessity to keep minutes. It was ultimately decided that HRC needs to have brief summary minutes in printed form and must retain a copy of electronically recorded minutes as well.

B. Regarding the Airport update, Yolanda reported that construction has started and that the airport is moving everyone. A new area is lined. There is among HRC members a question of the need to do diversity training: Who should do this. The mayor's chief of staff will contact the Airport Director, Maureen Riley to receive her feedback on the feasibility of diversity training.

C. On the question of the city's new vendor ordinance, HRC discussed ways for the HRC to move forward. One member mentioned Central Civico and John Renteria's interest in the subject. These people want the ordinance changed. HRC believes that the vendors should have an opportunity to suggest changes but Yolanda has not heard from them yet. As of this time, the ordinance is in place and the city's Business Licensing division is visiting the vendors to see that they comply with the law. Jennifer raised the question as to whether the HRC should write a letter to voice our concerns or do we wait until the vendors talk to their legal counsel. Cristy suggested that the vendors and their representatives create a fair proposal and then come to the HRC for support. HRC members feel that the HRC needs to decide on an official statement regarding the vendor ordinance regarding whether or not to rework the law. Maybe HRC could do this after the City Attorney's office looks at it. Adriano stated that he feels the background check are discriminatory. Jennifer and Mimi have obtained vendor ordinances from other cities and these are similar to Salt Lake City's ordinance. Issues involved are the cleanliness of the vendor's area and the need for restrooms which is a problem with nearby businesses.

D. HRC members discussed City Councilwoman, Jill Remington Love's desire to see the HRC have more clout. Even though the HRC reports directly to the City's Mayor, it is good that the city council has expressed a desire to see HRC become very influential.

E. HRC needs to compile a plan for the Office of Diversity and Human Rights. This will include a mission and vision statement.

F. HRC members discussed with Yolanda components of HRC's plans that include the Refugee Mentor Program; Kaleidoscope which encompasses the Speakers Bureau, the "I Am Salt Lake City" program and Leadership Utah, and the Good Neighbor Guide. HRC members stated that the objective of the Speakers

Bureau is to work through both a private setting and an educational one to enhance the image of minorities in the community through education, awareness and a positive view. Leadership Utah is a once-a-year selection of a member of the minority community to attend the Chamber of Commerce program. HRC members affirmed that the HRC should continue the Speakers Bureau, Leadership Utah, "I Am Salt Lake City" Program, the Refugee's Guide, and the Neighborhood guide.

G. Yolanda asked how we measure or evaluate HRC's effectiveness. A number of suggestions were made including reading news articles, getting input from various festivals, U-Tube, keeping record of telephone calls and surveys.

H. HRC members discussed at length the city's Office of Diversity and Human Rights Planning Office. The budget for this committee is nonexistent. It is volunteer based and it is putting together ideas on what they see as the responsibilities of the Office of Diversity and Human Rights. Mayor Becker wants collaboration in having the community plan this together. At the meetings there was some difficulty in having planning committee people agreeing on profit motives verses nonprofit motives in defining the office. The next four weeks will be used to develop a presentation to the committee and the final report will be from the HRC on April 4. Presentations to Yolanda need to be in by April 2. Each HRC member who participated in the planning discussed her or his information.

I. HRC members conducted a short discussion of Senator Chris Buttar's comments this past legislative session. Orin mentioned an experience in the Army and how there is a need to be sensitive about using terms that might offend people because of racial connotations.

3. Future Meetings:

A. Meetings will be at 5:30 p.m. on the 3rd Monday of each month.

B. HRC members defined their schedule for April and May as:
April 21st for the next HRC meeting: 5:30 p.m.

May 19th for the May meeting: 5:30 p.m.

C. It was not decided as whether or not to have HRC meetings in June and July. However, Walter mentioned that HRC will need to use these months to find a "Utah Leadership" candidate.

Minutes compiled by Walter Jones, Secretary


Signature, Cristy Gleave, Chair

4-7-08
Date