

MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Council Chambers, City Hall
3900 Main St., Riverside, CA 92522
March 16, 2006 @ 5:30 pm
(951) 826-5302/5709/5427

I. Introductions and Commissioner Photographs

II. Call to Order (Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Attendance) at 5:40

Commissioner Walker has asked for a leave of absence until June 2006.

Motion: to provide a leave of absence to Commissioner Sonya Walker

M/S/C: Brandriff/Gordon/Carried

III. Approval of Minutes – February 16, 2006

Amendments:

Item X: RPD Diversity Training-Diversity Training meeting for RPD.

Item 9E-Lt. Meier not Lt. Meyers

Commissioner Valdez Yeager was in attendance at the end of the meeting; Sonya Walker will be added to the present list

M/S/C: Gordon/Beeman/Carried

IV. Introductions and Public Comment

Mary Shelton-Stated that her public information request was met by the Human Relations Office. She highlighted the lack of female and African American officers in the Riverside Police Department. She stated that female academy cadets have dropped out of the program and requested that the Department perform an exit exam and mentorships. She stated that the Department needs to approach the national police department average of 16% female officers.

V. Chairs Report

The Chair highlighted the Chair's memo to the Commission. He highlighted the need for human capital and the lack of communication between the Human Relations Commission and the City Council. Commissioner Beeman objected to the memo due to the fact that the Commission did not have an opportunity to review the document. She highlighted her disagreement with the paragraph regarding staff. Chairperson Wilson noted the objection of Commissioner Beeman and apologized if his comments were taken wrongly.

A. EYAC Liaison-

Not present.

B. Event sign up

The Chair passed out a sign up sheet for the following events:

April 16, 2006-Eastside Health Fair and Teen Expo

April 23, 2006-Youth Multicultural Festival

April 27, 2006-Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner, Convention Center, 7pm

April 27th, 5-8pm, Brown Act and Ethics training, City Council Chambers

Motion: The Chair will speak to the City Attorney regarding the Ethics Training

M/S/C: Valdez Yeager/Beeman/Carried

March 28th-Stipulated Judgment Meeting, 3pm City Hall

C. Budgetary allocation for equipment purchase

The Chair proposed the purchase of a projector for outreach events.

Motion: to allocate funding for the purchase of a projector up to \$2,000 for the purpose of outreach

M/S/C: Valdez Yeager/Isom/Carried

VI. Officer Elections

Chair: Rebecca Diaz

M/S/C: Beeman/Yeager/Carried

Vice Chair: Chani Beeman

M/S/C: Yeager/Brandriff/Carried

Parliamentarian: AJ Wilson

M/S/C: Isom/Gordon

VII. Community Presentations and Group Discussion – Women’s History Month

A. Jan Green, President, League of Women Voters

Jan Green provided a brief history of women’s suffrage and encouraged commissioners to join the league. She highlighted both the League’s accomplishments as well as its mission statement. On March 25th at March Air force Base, the League is having a workshop from 10-2pm. RSVPs are required by the Tuesday before the event. The event will be free. She encouraged men to join the organization. The Executive Director asked about the League’s activities in recruiting and assisting minority voters to get registered and get to the polls. Jan Green stated that the League would like to partner with organizations doing that mission and has previously worked with Community Colleges.

VIII. Executive Director’s Report

The Executive Director requested that Commissioners turn in their bio information. The Chair clarified that Commissioners turn in any new information by 4:30 on March 17th to Jen Gray-O’Connor. Commissioner Brandriff asked for clarification on the DBE meeting attended by the Executive Director. ED Payne replied that the meeting was aimed at internal government officials with the scenario that the court decision would prevent the DBE program to operate in its current form. Although a % of minority or disadvantaged businesses will no longer be required, businesses are still encouraged to subcontract and contract with minority businesses. Commissioner Isom asked about the Civil Rights Watch publication and was assured that the next issue will be completed by the end of the month.

IX. New Business

A. Commissioner Orientation

Commissioner Wilson asked that staff add a bullet to Ethics Training: Invite City Attorney to Orientation. Commissioner Beeman asked that the goals and priorities be combined with the subcommittee presentation. The standing committees will be a subset of the Goals and Priorities. Commissioner Valdez Yeager requested that a report on the major projects of the Commission be added. This should include information regarding the website. The Orientation will start at 4pm and lead into the regular HRC session.

B. Annual Report

Commissioners reviewed a 2005 Annual Report. Commissioner Wilson asked that Commissioners review the document and forward their changes to staff.

Motion: To allow the Executive Committee final approval of the Annual Report.

M/S/C: Medina/Gordon/Carried

B. Report to the City Council on Public Forum

Commissioner Wilson provided the PowerPoint presentation that was given during the Town Hall Meeting. Commissioner Valdez Yeager commented that the process of how the commission was given the information about the meeting and not involved in the process of creating the Town Hall meeting. Commissioner Valdez Yeager also had concerns regarding the PowerPoint presentation and the format of the meeting. Commissioner Wilson stated that his intention was to create a community meeting and not a Human Relations Commission meeting.

Mary Shelton-She stated that less than half of the Commissioners were present at the Town Hall meeting and asked that in the future commissioners commit to greater attendance. She stated that there is still community concern regarding the stipulated agreement. She is concerned about City Council being apathetic to this issue. She stated that she learned a lot from the forum.

Commissioner Moore-In responding to the comments of Mary Shelton, Commissioner Moore stated that many commissioners have other community obligations and that their absence should not be taken as non-interest.

Commissioner Wilson reviewed a memo to City Council summarizing the public comments. Commissioner Bradriff asked that the suggestion of a Chief’s Night Out be added to the memo to City Council. Executive Director Payne requested that text be added that clarifies that these suggestions are from the community and not from the Commission.

Commissioner Beeman asked that the memo transmit the flavor of the meeting. She highlighted the community concern that it is not possible to “sustain the momentum”. Commissioner Valdez Yeager corrected the Robert Melsh is spelled without a C and that some of the unidentified comments were from Lettisha Pepper. Commissioner Lievanos asked if the HRC Commissioners go out into the community. She suggested that HRC Commissioners attend any proposed Chief’s Night Out to listen to the public. Commissioner Medina suggested that the Watch Commander also attend a Chief’s Night Out.

Motion: To forward a memo to City Council describing the community input during the Town Hall Meeting
M/S/C: Beeman/Lievanos/Carried

X. Old Business

A. 2006 Goals and Priorities

Motion: Commissioners approve the 2006 Goals and Priorities

M/S/C: Valdez Yeager/Beeman/Carried

Changes; Add 12: Timely Response to Community Issues. Add a bullet called “monitoring the strategic plan” under RPD liaison.

B. Day of Dialogue

Commissioner Lievanos asked why Martin Luther King was chosen as a location for this event. Commissioner Beeman replied that Martin Luther King was chosen due to the defacement of a marquee and further clarified that this event was separate from gang activity. Commissioner Beeman suggested that the Commission work with the Alvord School district as well. Commissioner Moore reported that Channel 9 has added this event to their broadcast event list.

Motion: to approve funding up to \$150 for the March 23rd Day of Dialogue at Martin Luther King Jr. High School.

M/S/C: Beeman/Valdez Yeager/Carried

XI. Committee and Task Force Reports

All subcommittee and Task force Reports will be in the form of written reports sent with the agenda packet. This time on the agenda will be for questions on these notes.

A. RPD Liaison

B. RPD Liaison Program-Commissioner Beeman was invited to a meeting regarding an RUSD school site to be located in the Eastside. She asks that this issue be monitored as the proposed school site would displace residents in University Ave to 11th St, and Ottawa to Town Square. Commissioner Isom clarified this is an Eminent Domain issue. Commissioner Beeman asked that Commissioner Medina be the liaison for ward 2 and Commissioner Medina accepted the appointment. Commissioner Bradriff presented information regarding the community mapping program

C. Outreach and Education

D. Governmental Affairs

XII. Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Valdez Yeager thanked the Office of Human Relations for sponsoring young women in the Latina Women’s Forum.

XIII. Community Calendar

Events have been identified by Commissioners and staff to be of interest to those involved with programs of the Commission. The April calendar was distributed at the meeting.

XIV. Schedule of Meetings (all subcommittee meetings are held at City Hall, please check agenda for conference room location)

- **Governmental Affairs: Thursday, March 23, 2006 @ 5:30pm**
- **Education and Outreach: Monday March 20, 2006 @ 5:30 pm**
- **Executive: Thursday April 6, 2006 @ 5:30pm**
- **Human Relations Commission: Thursday, April 20, 2006 @ 6pm, Commissioner Orientation at 4:30**

XV. Items for Future Commission Consideration

Commissioner Valdez Yeager requested that Ralph Nunez provide a presentation regarding Park, Recreation, and Community Services outreach activities. Commissioner Brandriff requested more information on student commissioners.

XVI. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Gray-O'Connor