



Minutes of the City of Albuquerque Human Rights Board

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 18, 2015

Office of Diversity and Human Rights

2nd Floor, Suite 201, City Hall

One Civic Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM 87103

1. Call to Order

Mr. Enrique Aguilar, Vice Chair, presiding over the meeting in the absence of a Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. (MST) on Tuesday, August 18, 2015.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Enrique Aguilar

Ms. Elaine Miller

Mr. Gary Williams

Ms. Dusadee Sarangarm

Ms. Hwa Soon (Sue) Thorson

STAFF PRESENT

Nick Bullock, Board and Assistant City Attorney

Gabriel Campos, Director, Office of Diversity and Human Rights

Ms. Annabelle J. Romero, Deputy Director, Office of Diversity and Human Rights

Shannon Triplett, Office of Diversity and Human Rights

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Elder Michael Jefferson

2. A motion to approve agenda for August 18, 2015 was made and seconded. Approval of agenda passed unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday, February 17, 2014 was made and seconded. Approval of the minutes passed unanimously.
4. Board member Sue Thorson asked where Bob was, it was reported that Robert Poyourow's term had expired and he had not wished to reapply. It was also reported by Director, Gabe Campos that there are currently two open chairs for Board members.

5. Election of Chair and Vice Chair-- Mr. Aguilar asked for volunteers for the positions, Elaine Miller asked if Mr. Aguilar would like to do it again, Mr. Aguilar stated that he was hoping to wash his hand of the situation. Mr. Campos nominated Dusadee Sarangarm for the Chair and Mr. Aguilar also nominated her. Approval for Ms. Sarangarm to be chair passed unanimously. Mr. Aguilar then asked for nominations of Vice Chair. Ms. Sue Thorson nominated Elaine Miller. The Board as a whole then nominated Mr. Aguilar. Mr. Aguilar asked for a vote for Ms. Miller, two votes were in her favor, he then asked for those in favor of himself and the vote passed unanimously.

6. Director's Report -- Gabe Campos, presented a summary on cases handled by the Office of Diversity and Human Rights (ODHR), a list of projects/collaboration and training/events. He explained the type of services ODHR is doing and what each reference means. He provided a sampling of cases that have been completed. Mr. Campos asked the members to reference the copies of the excel spreadsheet that he had provided.

Mr. Campos then went on to state that another project that ODHR has taken on was the Pay Equity Initiative. Mr. Campos informed the Board that contractors would be submitting their pay information to the City to possibly receive a 5% preference for being under 10% wage deviation.

Ms. Dusadee Sarangarm walked in late and was told that she was elected to be the new chair.

Mr. Campos then went on to talk about U-Visa's and that the City had not been signing them. Mr. Campos stated that U-Visas are for immigrants who are victims of a crime that help to report the crime and assist in its investigation. Mr. Campos then offered that the City was now signing them and that their role is look to see if a crime had been committed and that the victim had cooperated and then the U-Visa is passed on to the Federal level.

Mr. Campos then informed the Board that Ms. Romero was going to speak about The Albuquerque Collaborative on Police and Community Relations (ACPCR). Ms. Romero stated that we had started this last October with the Mayor's office as a way to set up a series of dialogues between the community and Police Officers and of the 22 we conducted three were private. Ms. Romero offered that we had completed Phase 1 and have started Phase 2 of the dialogues. She stated the UNM was contracted to construct a report of the information the City had collected from the dialogues. Ms. Romero offered that the last meeting that was held was for the community to look at the data that UNM had compiled and find three main themes. Ms. Romero then went on to explain the document that had been passed out contained the UNM Findings as well as the DOJ findings that were similar.

Mr. Williams asked if UMN came up with the major themes or if it was a consensus of the attendees of the meetings. Mr. Campos informed him that the facilitators had decided the major themes and that none of the themes were lost, they were just grouped together.

Ms. Romero informed that a report would be coming out of the findings for Phase 2 and would be submitted to the Mayor for his review. Ms. Thorson then asked if Phase 2 was still going on or if it had been completed. Ms. Romero offered that it had been completed and that we were just waiting for the report.

Ms. Sarangarm then stated that Phase 1 was called listening and what was Phase 2 called. Ms. Romero then stated that it was called Action Planning.

Mr. Campos offered that the reason the City had done it this way was that they didn't want them to reinvent the wheel, the Settlement Agreement is huge and had requirements that they didn't want the participants to duplicate.

Ms. Romero then asked if there were any more questions about the Collaborative. Ms. Thorson stated that the UNM report was a long report and Ms. Romero offered that it was an easy read.

Ms. Sarangarm asked if there was a budget for this and there was then discussion about the cost of the dialogues. Mr. Campos informed everyone that \$150,000 was budgeted in the resolution for this project and that if more money was needed it would be decided by City Council.

Mr. Campos informed everyone that a lot of what people wanted was just for police officers to be nice and also there was discussion of the color of police vehicles but they are federally mandated to be black so that will not change.

Ms. Miller then asked if the meetings were public meetings. Ms. Romero offered that they were open to anyone in the community. Ms. Miller stated that she did not know about the meetings. Ms. Thorson offered that the board had discussed the dialogues at a previous meeting.

Ms. Thorson then asked if the report contained items, like improving equipment and such and Ms. Romero answered yes. Mr. Campos offered that Dr. Ginger has lots of money to implement recommendations made.

Ms. Romero stated that ODHR had other ADA Cases that they had been working on, one with Habitat for Humanity's "Re-Store." Ms. Romero offered that she had received a call from a handicapped woman who stated that Re-Store only had one handicapped ramp access and that it was also being used for loading and unloading. ODHR went out to visit the site and worked with the manager as well as the City's planning department and was able to get the whole parking lot redone. There was then discussion about businesses wanting to do the right thing.

Ms. Romero stated the next ADA case that ODHR had been working on was an issue with Transit and The Sun Van where a gentleman had called and complained that he had been denied a permit to use the Sun Van. The Gentleman explained that he had doctor's notes and his disability was not visible. Ms. Romero contacted the director of transit who reviewed the gentleman's request and based on the information provided was able to approve him for a permit to ride the Sun Van. Ms. Romero then offered that another issue she had been working on with the Sun Van was regarding a blind woman who had been missed and not picked up. The woman had requested that the dispatcher include the name of the pickup location and not just the address because sometimes Sun Van operators cannot find the address. Ms. Romero offered board members to look at the Sun Van's policies and stated the requesting service section in the policy book recommends being specific and detailed about the pickup so as to avoid a missed pickup. Ms. Romero added that the Transit Director confirmed the woman's information was correct and included the information she was requesting concerning her pickup. ODHR has asked the citizen to provide specific dates and times when the missed pickups occurred so that Transit can look into why she had had been missed. There was then discussion about the policies in place.

Mr. Campos then asked that they follow up with the "joyriding" issue with transit and everyone agreed. Ms. Romero said that she would follow up.

Mr. Campos shared another topic ODHR had been working on was confederate flag that flies on the Plaza in Old Town. Mr. Campos informed that Elder Michael Jefferson who was present had attended the meeting with the Mayor and asked if he wanted to say anything. He said that he did not. Mr. Campos explained that there was a confederate flag flying in Old Town and the Mayor had invited people to speak on the topic. After discussion with a number of stakeholders the Mayor had the Flag taken down. There was then discussion about the history of the flag.

Mr. Campos offered that he had visited Turkey. He explained the Rain Drop Foundation and how they like to do a cultural exchange. There was then some discussion about visiting Turkey and how long he had been there and conflicts.

Mr. Campos stated that he had been working with the first year medical students and how they go out into the community and do health assessments. Mr. Campos stated that he felt the reports that these students do would be beneficial to the City.

Mr. Campos informed everyone that Special Olympics had reached out to ODHR and that the office was hoping to team up and work with them.

Mr. Williams asked about consortiums and there was some discussion about it.

7. Public Comment -- The Board did not receive notification of public comment.

8. New Business/Announcements – Elaine asked about the night out event that the City was putting on. Mr. Campos stated that the Mayor had asked for all the directors to go meet with their neighborhood associations so that the community can meet with the City’s directors of various departments. Mr. Campos offered that he was able to change the time of the watering in his local park to better accommodate everyone’s wishes.

Mr. Campos told Ms. Sarangarm that he hoped to work with her people in the ER to come up with a protocol as to how APD should act when there is an officer shooting. Ms. Sarangarm agreed.

Vice Chair Aguilar stated that last year during the ABQ Open he tried to integrate a wheel chair tennis component but was unsuccessful. This year he hoped to hijack the event again. Mr. Aguilar asked if the City made trophies. Ms. Romero offered that she was not aware of the City doing that. Mr. Aguilar then stated that he hoped to bring more tournaments to Albuquerque. Mr. Campos offered that the City can give certificates and Ms. Romero asked if it was to be a City sponsored event and Mr. Aguilar stated that he hoped to work with the City. There was then discussion about fundraising within the City.

9. Adjournment -- There being no further business to be brought before the Board, acting Chair Enrique Aguilar adjourned the meeting. The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at The Albuquerque BioPark Aquarium Theater, 2601 Central Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104. The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

SUBMITTED:

READ AND APPROVED:

Mr. Gabriel Campos
Secretary to the Board

Dusadee Sarangarm
Chairperson of the Board

Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2015