

City of Boulder
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING SUMMARY FORM

NAME OF BOARD/COMMISSION: Human Relations Commission
DATE OF MEETING: September 22, 2008
NAME/TELEPHONE OF PERSON PREPARING SUMMARY: Erika Krouse, (303) 441-4157
NAMES OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND INVITED GUESTS PRESENT: Commissioners Present – Leisha Conners Bauer (joined meeting at 6:12 pm), Pilar Elena Collazo, Jill McFadden, Amy Stein, Rayford Stewart Commissioners Absent – None. Staff - Carmen Atilano, Carl Castillo, Richard Johnson, Erika Krouse, Karen Rahn
WHAT TYPE OF MEETING (CIRCLE ONE) [REGULAR] [SPECIAL] [QUASI-JUDICIAL]
OUTLINE OF AGENDA (USE ONE ADDITIONAL PAGE IF NECESSARY): WHAT WAS DISCUSSED, TABLED; WHAT ACTION WAS TAKEN; PROVIDE VOTE TALLY OF ANY VOTES TAKEN:
AGENDA ITEM 1 - CALL TO ORDER - The September 22, 2008 HRC meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by J. McFadden.
AGENDA ITEM 2 - AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS – Boulder Disability Task Force came first on the agenda, followed by the Colorado Payday Lending Reform Initiative. P.E. Collazo added two items to Discussion/Informational Items. Discussion/Informational Item A took place directly after Action Item C, followed by Action Item D.
AGENDA ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A. Stein moved to approve the May 19, 2008 minutes with two amendments. R. Stewart seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 4-0.
AGENDA ITEM 4 – COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION – Nino Gallo spoke regarding the Multicultural Business Fair. (L. Conners Bauer joined the meeting at 6:12 p.m.) This is their fourth year and they will be asking for financial support and publicity. The HRC asked them to apply for funds in January 2009. Robert Sharpe spoke regarding how the average person is left out of the City’s historic code. He asked the HRC to consider recommending a change so there is recognition and protection for the average person’s history, homes and landscape.
AGENDA ITEM 5 - ACTION ITEMS A. Boulder Disability Task Force report – Dave Brighton spoke regarding their event at the Boulder Public Library, where they highlighted disability issues and how technology is used for the disabled. L. Conners Bauer moved to approve the report and R. Stewart seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 5-0. B. Colorado Payday Lending Reform Initiative, C. Atilano – Rich Jones of the Bell Policy Center spoke on the Colorado Payday Lending Reform Initiative. Payday loans are issued mostly by check cashing businesses from one payday to another; they’re limited to \$500 and 40 days. Almost 2/3 of the loans are rollover or refinanced loans or same-day loans. These loans were set up under the 2000 Deferred Deposit Loan Act and do not have a limit on the amount of interest that can be charged. About 70% of loans were given to people who had 11 or more loans, and 40% were given to people who had over 20 loans. Most of the lenders are single mothers in their early to mid thirties who make an average of \$28K per year. The alternatives to these loans are small consumer loans with six month payoff time, overdraft protection on loans, and some local Credit unions are doing payday-style loans but with APR’s of 18%. Local papers and groups are supporting reform, including Daily Camera. The Colorado Payday Lending Reform Initiative asks to change the language proposed initiative to “limit the cap to the state’s usury limit,” which is 45%. A. Stein moved to forward this language as amended to the City Council for consideration for the 2009 legislative agenda. L. Conners Bauer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 5-0. C. 2008 Cultural Celebration Reports, J. McFadden 1. Village Arts Coalition – Board member Anne Vickery introduced Hermine Higgins, the new coordinator. They reported on their event, which was very successful. R. Stewart moved to approve the report. P.E. Collazo seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 5-0. 2. Romanian American Freedom Alliance – Ingrid Fotino expressed gratitude for HRC support and reported on their event. L. Conners Bauer moved to approve the RAFA report. R. Stewart seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 5-0. 3. Boulder Jewish Festival – Cheryl Fellows reported on the event, which broke even. (P.E. Collazo left the meeting at 7:24 p.m.) L. Conners Bauer moved to approve the report, and R. Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0. (P.E. Collazo returned to the meeting at 7:26.) D. Funding Request, Bias Incident Hotline Project, R. Johnson – (R. Stewart and A. Stein recused themselves from the meeting at 7:50 pm.) One FTE and hotline volunteers have created a website and training manual, and have trained over 20 intake volunteers. The manual was produced in collaboration with Safehouse, OHR, MESA and the Colorado Anti-Violence Project and BPD. They distributed preliminary data regarding the hotline, reported on anecdotal feedback, and asked for continued funding. L. Conners Bauer asked about the preceding contract, and staff answered that Council had stipulated that they would receive only a one-time grant of \$16K, \$8K coming from the HRC. HRC cannot fund the project; but they can ask Council for a change in policy. J. McFadden spoke about the limitations of HRC funding. J. McFadden asked to see the 6-month report and for quantifiable data in the goals and objectives as soon as possible to help the HRC make a decision concerning this request.
AGENDA ITEM 6 – Discussion/Informational Items A. 2009 Cultural Celebration Applicants, J. McFadden – 1. Village Arts Coalition - The next year will be mostly the same; they are hoping to do more promotion and attract more vendors. 2. Romanian American Freedom Alliance – They asked to increase the request to \$3100. A. Stein asked about the surplus in

their budget. Ingrid Fotino said that the surplus is used for a children's institute in Romania. The HRC asked a more detailed budget for the Cultural Celebrations part of the event. R. Stewart said that they have limited needs, and will need to evaluate their mission regarding this request, as RAFA has a surplus that could be used for the event rather than fundraising.

3. **Boulder Jewish Festival** – The event will mostly be the same next year.
 4. **CU Dennis Small Cultural Center** – The Center, which is administered by the UMC, serves underrepresented students and campus members through events throughout the year: film screenings, cooking classes, forums, etc. The Dance It Off! event is an alternative to alcohol and drugs in order to de-stress, and they provide instructors, advertising and refreshments. A. Stein asked if the annual budget is enough, and they responded that they're expanding their programming to generate 50-60 participants per hour session.
 5. **Veterans Helping Veterans Now** – Maureen Ewing spoke on Veterans Helping Veterans Now, an outreach group that originated to work with Iraq and Afghanistan war vets as they came home, but now works with all vets. They held the event last year, which allowed them to do meaningful outreach while also putting on a fun event. A. Stein asked them to submit a revised budget to reflect their true costs.
- B. Public Library Internet Policy, P.E. Collazo** – (R. Stewart and A. Stein rejoined the meeting at 8:45.) To use the Boulder Public Library internet, one must now schedule a time and enter one's library card number. The procedure is complicated, and may be confusing for non-English speakers. On a personal note, P.E. Collazo experienced condescension and intimidation from a Library staff member regarding linguistic difficulty. C. Atilano said that staff will research the issue and its impact on different populations in Boulder, and also can invite someone from the library commission to speak to the HRC. (L. Conners Bauer left the meeting at 8:52 pm.) P.E. Collazo is also entitled to contact the library as a private citizen to register an inquiry or complaint against the staff member. (L. Conners Bauer rejoined the meeting at 8:56 pm. J. McFadden left the meeting at 8:57 pm. J. McFadden rejoined the meeting at 8:59 pm.) A. Stein asked to have a Library representative at the October HRC meeting.
- C. Letter from Community Member, P.E. Collazo** – P.E. Collazo spoke regarding a Boulder resident motorist who hit a cyclist without possessing a driver's license. She read a letter from a man who wished to say that he should not be punished for the sins of others.
- D. NAHRW/IAOHRA Conference, R. Stewart, A. Stein, P.E. Collazo** – This item was tabled until the next meeting.
- E. Announcements** – L. Conners Bauer attended the Gang Task Force last week and asked for the Community Planning Committee to present to the HRC in October. J. McFadden announced that Safehouse Jam for Justice is on September 26. Staff reported that Council will consider opposing Amendment 46. A. Stein reported that the DSCC proposals had an inconsistency in their numbers.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – Immediate Action Items – None.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – Adjournment – L. Conners Bauer moved to adjourn the September 22, 2008 meeting. R. Stewart seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

TIME AND LOCATION OF ANY FUTURE MEETINGS, COMMITTEES OR SPECIAL HEARINGS: The next regular meeting of the HRC is scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. Meeting location will be City Council Chambers at 1777 Broadway.