

City of Boulder
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING SUMMARY FORM

NAME OF BOARD/COMMISSION: Human Relations Commission
DATE OF MEETING: May 18, 2009
NAME/TELEPHONE OF PERSON PREPARING SUMMARY: Erika Krouse, (303) 441-4157
NAMES OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND INVITED GUESTS PRESENT: Commissioners Present – Leisha Conners Bauer, Pilar Elena Collazo, Jonathan Dings, Amy Stein, Rayford Stewart Commissioners Absent – None. Staff – Carmen Atilano, Richard Johnson, Erika Krouse
WHAT TYPE OF MEETING (CIRCLE ONE) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [REGULAR] <input type="checkbox"/> [SPECIAL] <input type="checkbox"/> [QUASI-JUDICIAL]
AGENDA ITEM 1 - CALL TO ORDER - The May 18, 2009 HRC meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by A. Stein.
AGENDA ITEM 2 - AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS – Discussion Item “Community Development Advisory Committee” took place before the Action Items. “Alejandro Zapatero Incident” was added to Discussion Items.
AGENDA ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES – R. Stewart moved to approve the minutes. J. Dings seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 5-0.
AGENDA ITEM 4 – COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION – None.
AGENDA ITEM 5 - ACTION ITEMS A. Further Statement to City Council. A. Stein – Due to the current recession and the changing demographics of the newly-indigent, the HRC expressed concern that funding for Boulder’s human services may be cut. A. Stein proposed a statement to be forwarded to Council, and the HRC amended it to read as follows: “The Human Relations Commission (HRC) sent a statement to Council on January 21, 2009, anticipating the budgetary cuts that have become reality. HRC wishes to make Council aware of the economic implications for already marginalized and lower income populations, people who are unlikely to have a voice in the City’s budget process. The implications of cuts in our earlier statement to Council have already become a reality: the agencies serving the homeless report an increase in homeless individuals and, in particular, an increase in <i>newly</i> homeless people; the agencies serving children and young families report an increase in <i>new</i> requests for scholarship assistance; the agencies providing critical food assistance to families report an increase in demand from <i>new</i> families; the agencies providing mental health services report and increase in need from <i>new</i> clients. Our City and its extraordinary structure provide so much for so many, and we again respectfully request that Council view social sustainability as a priority and a factor in determining budgetary cuts. We further request that essential human services be the last areas to be considered for cuts. The sad truth is that the very people who would be affected by cuts to essential Human Services often lack a voice in this process. The City of Boulder funds vital, life-saving and life-essential services; we ask that Council consider implications of all cuts on our most vulnerable, most needy, marginalized, sick, elderly and young.” L. Conners Bauer moved to approve the statement as amended. P.E. Collazo seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 5-0. B. Summer Activities Scholarships for Youth, C. Atilano – To help prevent gang activity, the HRC expressed interest in supporting summer youth activities. Parks and Recreation provided a proposal for \$3000 to be spent on scholarship summer activities to low-income youth. Summer day camp costs \$150-300 per child for the summer, or \$50-75 dollars would purchase a 40-punch pass for a child to attend any program or activity in the Recreation Centers. There were questions about whether the punch passes are usually fully used, whether the opportunity would be promoted bilingually, and whether the pilot period should encompass the school year. There were concerns over the fact that the relationship to gang activity is not clearly articulated, the low age requirements for the scholarships, the amount of the grant, and that the scholarships might be curtailed due to the fact that school was already ending. The HRC wished to fund something sustainable that would encourage the youth into the following year. The HRC requested that Parks and Recreation work with Community Mediation Services and the Boulder Police Department to identify at-risk youth, and that they serve a minimum of 20 kids, ages 11-18. L. Conners Bauer moved to donate up to \$3000 to a pilot program for summer activity scholarships for kids at risk to mitigate gang-related activity as referred by City of Boulder police and mediation staff. J. Dings seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 5-0.
AGENDA ITEM 6 – Discussion/Informational Items A. Community Development Advisory Committee, J. Yegian – The Community Development Block grant is funded \$934K from the federal government. The grant serves low-income people, and 15% of the award can be used for public service activities, while the rest must be used for capital improvements. \$354K goes to housing projects, and roughly the same amount goes to affordable housing developments. The Division of Housing is looking for people who were interested in serving on the Technical Review Group. J. Dings and R. Stewart will consider applying. B. Take Back the Night, R. Johnson – Parks and Recreation comped Take Back the Night on the price of the Bandshell, so the grant money was refunded to the HRC. C. Community Fund Events for June 2009, A. Stein – In June, there are two cultural celebrations: Boulder Jewish Festival and VAC International Festival. A. Stein will attend both events. D. Store Incident Reported by Boulder Residents, A. Stein – Regarding the racist T-shirts sold downtown, the HRC is not able to take punitive action against the store, as they are limited in their scope as a government entity. The private citizen who raised this issue is better off contacting the Anti-Defamation League, who has more liberties to act on such matters. E. Gang Prevention Community Forum, C. Atilano – A community forum was held on May 12 th at San Juan del Centro to meet with parents of children at risk for gang activity. The forum, held by the Boulder Police Department and Community Mediation Services, outlined warning signs of gang activity and described programs and services available to children through the Parks and Recreation Department. The meeting was held in Spanish with English translation, and approximately 15 parents attended.

F. Middle School Hate Crime, A. Stein – An ADL press release was sent out regarding a 10-year old and two 13-year olds who threatened to sexually assault and kill a 12-year-old girl because she is of Asian heritage. The children will be tried in juvenile court for harassment and for hate crimes.

G. Visioning (HRC 2009 Work Plan), A. Stein – This subject was tabled until the next meeting. A. Stein talked about the desire to market the HRC. L. Conners Bauer asked to discuss the safety issue and recognition of the HRC at the next meeting.

H. Alejandro Zapatera Incident – The HRC voiced concerns over an incident where Alejandro Zapatera was reported to Immigration after a traffic stop. Alejandro is a community leader who was taking parenting and English classes. Staff said that the actions taken by the police officer are based on Federal and State law, as explained by Officer Carey Weinheimer. If she feels that the Boulder Police Department acted unjustly, Mrs. Zapatera-Flores is eligible to file a complaint.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – Immediate Action Items – None.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – Adjournment – R. Stewart moved to adjourn the May 18, 2009 meeting. L. Conners Bauer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

TIME AND LOCATION OF ANY FUTURE MEETINGS, COMMITTEES OR SPECIAL HEARINGS: The next regular meeting of the HRC is scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Meeting location will be City Council Chambers, 1777 Broadway.