

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2013**

Chair Dillon called the 252st meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:30 PM

- WELCOME

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Bruce Abrams, Mary Alcock, Monica Bauer Federman, Gracia Molina de Pick, Mark Dillon, Tiffany Harrison, Mitz Lee Joyce Singer Abrams, Lorena Slomanson, Joel Trambley, Susan Thomson Tschirn, Patricia Washington

Excused: Shonee Henry, Gagandeep Kaur

Staff: Danell Scarborough, Executive Director; Darrin Schwabe, Senior Manager; Karen Li, Deputy City Attorney; Pam Holmberg, Human Resources

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Tschirn to approve the February 20 Commission Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruce Abrams. The motion passed unanimously.

Recognition of George Mitrovich for his service to the Commission

Mr. Mitrovich was unable to attend because of a previous conflict.

Introduction of students from USD's Masters in Non-Profit Leadership and Management Program

The four students, Leah Newman, Christine Houston, Melissa Tucker and Belen Gonzalez introduced themselves.

Non-Agenda Public Comment

The Commission wished Commissioner de Pick a happy birthday.

Aditi Calma from The Art of Living invited the Commissioners to attend a March 25 event in Balboa Park to Stand Up for Non-Violence. The event featured speakers include Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Mayor Bob Filner and UCSD Chancellor Pradeep Khosla. The event will be at 7:00 PM at the Organ Pavilion. More information is available at their website, www.nonvio.org.

- PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION/ACTION

Maximizing independence and fully integrating people with disabilities into the community.

Louis Frick, CEO, Access to Independence

Mr. Frick was unable to attend the meeting. The Commission will attempt to reschedule this presentation at a future meeting.

- **ACTION AGENDA**

New Business

1. Updates from 2013 Issue Committees

- a. **Access** – Commissioner Alcock provided an overview of the Committee’s planning progress. Their main themes will be Hunger, Housing and Technology. They are working to identify what organizations would be best to partner with. Their special project for the year will be a review of budget cut impacts on the low income population. They are narrowing down their potential speakers and will work on identifying a meeting date that would be best for them.
- b. **Civility** – Commissioner Harrison working to coordinate a Committee meeting time. They will continue to work with the Hate Crime Coalition on future forums and will keep the Commission updated on upcoming events. The Hate Crime Coalition only meets on a quarterly basis so they will work with them to see if meetings can be more frequent.
- c. **Education** – Commissioner Lee provided a report. The Committee hopes to have a follow-up presentation by the San Diego Unified School District in September with a report on student achievement. They will be inviting Becky Philpot and the new SDUSD Superintendent Cindy Marten.
- d. **Immigration** – Commissioner Slomanson plans to continue the partnership with the SDIRC. She attended an event sponsored by the SDIRC which provided individual assessments for individuals interested in their eligibility for the Dream Act or DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). There are many factors to consider and each individual needs to consider their personal situation and what is best for them. She hopes working with the SDIRC can help keep people well informed and also to help push towards sensible immigration reform.

2. **Considering a position on Assault Weapons Ban Resolution being forwarded to City Council.**

The Commission considered a draft resolution included in their package supporting an Assault Weapons Ban Resolution by the City Council. Councilmember Alvarez proposed a resolution at the PS&NS Committee which was approved and forwarded for consideration by the City Council. The Commission discussed the draft resolutions and possible adjustments to the language because of changes to legislation proposed by Senator Feinstein. A motion was made by Commissioner Washington to remove the language from the draft resolution regarding Senator Feinstein and to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Joyce Abrams. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Considering a position on Immigration Reform Resolution being heard at Rules and Economic Development Committee

The Commission considered a draft resolution included in their package supporting a reasonable and comprehensive approach to reforming the immigration system by the City Council. Councilmember Alvarez proposed a resolution at the Rules & Economic Development Committee. Key issues included a pathway to citizenship, fixing the border, family unity, accountability of Federal oversight and workers rights. At the Rules Committee meeting a second resolution was proposed by Councilmembers Falcouner, Zapf, Kersey and Sherman. Their resolution included a call for additional staffing at the border and removed protections for the LBGT community. Both resolutions were forwarded to Council for reconciliation. The Commission discussed what issues they felt were important and how to support the resolutions. All felt that any resolution should not include discriminatory language and all groups should be included. Chair Dillon made a motion that the Commission sends a letter of support of a resolution of immigration reform that meets the standards of the City Charter in that it is inclusive. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruce Abrams. The motion passed unanimously.

- INFORMATION AGENDA

Chair's Report

1. Overview of USD Student Project – Groundwork for Strategic Plan for Human Relations Commission.

Chair Dillon discussed the USD Student project and his hopes that the strategic plan will create a great tool for future planning.

Commissioner's Reports

- The Commissioners provided various reports on events they attended over the last month.

There was a discussion of where the Commission meetings will be held and the pros and cons of the meeting locations in Downtown and Balboa Park. The next meeting will be held at Balboa Park. At that meeting the schedule for the rest of the year will be further discussed.

Executive Director's Report:

1. Program and plans for California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO) Annual Training/Conference, Tuesday, April 2

Executive Director Scarborough reminded the Commissioners of the upcoming meeting, the conference topics, and the travel logistics.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.