

Human Relations Task Force

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Minutes

I. Roll Call: 6:50 PM

Present: Chancellor, Dagley, Garrick, Inouye, Nees, Jackle

Late: Goldenberg, Rodriguez

Absent: Dekle

Staff Liaison: Kuhnke absent

HB Police Liaisons: Detectives Jim Allard and Scott Winks

II. Welcoming Remarks by Ken Inouye, Chair

Inouye welcomed HRTF members, liaisons, and a member of the public.

III. Public Comments: None

IV. Motion to Approve Minutes: August 2, 2011

Moved by Jackle, Seconded by Goldenberg

Approved 5, No 0, Absent 2 (Dekle, Rodriguez), Abstain 2 (Garrick, Inouye)

V. Special Reports/Presentations:

None

VI. Status Reports:

1. Report of HRTF Donation account balance

In the absence of Kuhnke, no report was made.

2. Hate Crimes/Incidents for Aug. 2011

In the absence of Sgt. Dierking, Sgt. Jim Allard and Sgt. Scott Winks stated that there were no reported hate crimes/incidents in HB in August and no significant updates on prior crimes/incidents.

3. Orange County Human Relations (OCHR) News/Activities

Inouye distributed and commented on the OCHR 2010 Hate Crime Report, followed by a group discussion. Inouye noted that although reported hate crimes decreased overall, they increased against African Americans, who (although only about 3% of the population) were victims in 18 of 56 hate crimes reported. Inouye also noted that hate incidents (not crimes) had increased against Muslims/Middle Easterners, many related to children. Sgt. Allard and Sgt. Winks commented that even when hate crime/incidents are reported, many are not prosecuted because they are difficult to prove due to lack of third party-witnesses, victim reluctance to prosecute, difficulty of proving hate crime motivation, etc.

4. Coordinating Council Activities

Jackle reported that the Coordinating Council's monthly luncheon meetings will resume on Monday, October 3rd, following their summer recess.

VII. Updates, Planning, and Possible Motions pertaining to the following events/programs:

1. HRTF Student Representative Programs

Chancellor reported on the successful field trip to Chapman University's Center for Holocaust Education on August 11, attended by six teachers and three students from HB High School, plus Chancellor and Garrick. Teachers are working on arrangements that might involve a two hour visit with rotations through the center/library, film, lecture, campus tour, etc. followed later with assigned learning and sharing activities. Discussion followed. Also, Chancellor and Garrick continue to meet high school administrators to identify student representatives and discuss plans.

2. HB Reads Activities

Dagley reported a fundraising target of \$12,000 for the 2012 HB Reads programs, which will feature a well-known author who has been selected but not yet announced. Fundraising includes a personal-story writing workshop for up to 30 students titled "Voices in the Wind" conducted by Elva Trevino Hart (the HB Reads 2011 author) on Saturday, October 15, 2011. Dagley encouraged HRTF members to inform others of this workshop, for which information and registration are available on www.HBReads.com.

3. HRTF Fundraising Activities

Dagley reported progress with an HRTF fundraising letter, which will request donations of \$25 or more to fund future HRTF events and activities. Past Council Member Ralph Bauer provided a list of respected names for Dagley to contact for permission to include their names on the fundraising letterhead.

4. Federal Diversity Month planning and activities

In the absence of Dekle, Dagley stated that plans for the possible Cultural Festival are on hold until after year-end. Dagley has obtained information on similar events that have been conducted successfully in Long Beach, Glendale, San Diego, Washington State, and elsewhere.

VIII. New Business and Possible motions pertaining to:

1. Discussion and possible motion "to appoint an Ad Hoc committee to work with the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council (GHBIC) diversity committee to define program needs as appropriate."

Lynne Horn from the GHBIC distributed a written description of the Miller Initiative's anti-bias workshop training programs for grades K-2 that she and Kevin O'Grady (Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League) have proposed to a trustee of the HB Elementary School District and which is under consideration by the district superintendent. Ms. Horn discussed the need for elementary school diversity training programs, and expressed a desire to cooperate with the HRTF. Discussion followed about this program and whether the HRTF should become involved in this or other elementary school diversity programs, resulting in the following motion:

Motion: To investigate the feasibility of a diversity training program in elementary schools.

Moved by Nees and seconded

Approved 8, Absent 1 (Dekle)

Inouye, Chancellor and Garrick volunteered to assist with the investigation.

IX. Task Force Member Comments:

Jackle referred members to her email of September 5th informing HRTF members of the scheduled showing of "Teach Your Children Well" (a 45-minute documentary) on November 18th at HB Central Library co-sponsored by Councilman Shaw, and about the "Hostile Hallways" research paper on bullying and harassment in schools which can be viewed or downloaded from www.aauw.org.

Inouye thanked members for their continuing contributions.

Nees moved to adjourn, Rodriguez seconded, members unanimously approved, and Inouye adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.