

Valparaiso Advisory Human Relations Council

Minutes of the Meeting – August 23, 2016

Present: Heath Carter (Chair), Tatiana Cochran, Jacob Williams, Ivan Bodensteiner, Ric Frataccia, Cicely Powell, Angelys Torres, Marisa Johnson, John Seibert, Mike Brickner, John Albers

Absent: Bill Lewis, Jake Klotz, Mike Glorioso, Beth Wrobel

Commences at 5:30pm. Heath Carter calls to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

Changes – Add Tatiana Cochran to the list of absent members. John Albers asks to change paragraph referring to Ivan Bodensteiner to re-word and clarify. Changes are noted by Heath, he agrees to strike unnecessary words and typos.

First item: Revised Complaint form update, will be ready soon.

The IRC has been selected:

1. Mike Baird (City Council)
2. Cicely Powell (VCS)
3. Liz Wuerffel (VU)
4. Aaron Ingram (Mayor)
5. Jacob Williams (HRC)

Patrick Lyp addressed the issue of “checking the box”.

Heath Carter says the document reflects the changes discussed and provided copies for all to see changes made in red. Some ideas for possibilities are accessibility and Spanish language translation. The hope is to finalize the form and to have a basic version for now.

Heath Carter asks for feedback from HRC. Patrick Lyp adds that the form will appear on the city website and in paper at the Clerk’s office. In the future, it may be available at the public library.

Tatiana Cochran adds that it is important to pay a professional translator to translate the document and not rely on a community member. This document has very specific legal wording and we should ask that the person have a certification of some sort.

Item 2: Community Cultural Grant Program

Melissa Washburn presents on the background of the grant. The intent is for it to boost existing programs. The committee working on the program has experience in grant-writing. The draft was presented tonight and copies were provided. Patrick reviewed it. There were minor changes still to be made in the copy such as typos. The draft is still open to input. The administration of the grant will be a collaboration between the HRC and the Valpo Next Initiative (as proposed by Melissa Washburn).

The grant cycle would be twice per year. There would be four members on the committee, the evaluation criteria will be made public. Transparency is very important with this grant. The grant is flexible. 50% of the grant will be issued at the outset and the other half at the end.

Initially the fund will be 6,000 dollars per year. Ivan Bodensteiner asks if this amount will increase. How can we donate to this fund as a charitable contribution? Valpo Next is a 501 3c.

This grant will not be the sole source of funding for the organization. Those requesting grants will already have sources of funds.

Rob Cotton asks how Valpo Next will work with these initiatives.

Heath responds that our goal is to get this started and grow it later. Right now, we are working on:

1. Drafting evaluation criteria,
2. Receiving applications,
3. Community Wide calendar

Potentially to launch in 2017.

Item 3: Tatiana Cochran to update on her subcommittee (educational).

VRAB – Valpo Reads a Book – initiative is underway. The title is “The Book of Unknown Americans” . There will be book discussions in October. Please like the Facebook Page for more information.

VITAL – Valparaiso Institute for Teaching and Learning – reached out to them and they are interested in collaborating with VHS and Ivy Tech to talk about best practices in the classrooms with respect to diversity and inclusion.

Summer camps at Valpo were a success this year. More than 100 local community children attended the camp and 20% were on scholarship.

Item 4: Chief Brickner talks about recruitment, hiring, and testing that will be happening in October. The promote their positions in job fairs, universities and other areas.

The VPD website has had a re-design and people can now use a form to voice their concerns and even for positive experiences too.

He will be giving a training at the Attorney General regarding de-escalation with Bob Ross.

Coffee with a Cop on campus at the university.

They are accredited since 2010 with CALEA – 3 year terms, just had their on-site inspection. Final report early October, looks to be successful. Only 1000 out of 18000 are accredited.

Ivan Bodensteiner asks if citizens can view the training. Chief Brickner responds that we already do this training here locally in many ways.

Programs have implemented a school resource officer. De-escalation is incorporated.

Ivan Bodensteiner asks about a regional recruitment pool. Brickner says that it would be very cost-effective, but they weren't able to "get on the same page".

They usually receive 300-350 applications per opening.

Heath Carter discuss final items:

1. Final meeting for ATV at 7 pm here. ATV will present their findings.
2. HRC will work with the Mayor to review these recommendations.
3. HRC will report what comes of the initiatives.
4. No meeting in September.

Next meeting is October 25th, at 5:30pm here at City Hall. Meeting adjourned.