

Valparaiso Human Relations Council Minutes- May 24th, 2016

Present: Heath Carter, Tatiana Cochran, Marisa Johnson, Jacob Williams, Beth Wrobel, Cicely Powell, Ric Frattacia, Jake Klotz, Bill Lewis

Absent: Bill Oeding, Ivan Bodensteiner, Angelys Torres, Michael Glonoso, John Albers, Mike Brickner

- Heath Carter started the meeting.
 - Carter proposed a mission to accept the minutes of the March 22, April 5, and April 19th meetings.
 - Motion was approved.
- Analisa Warring gave a presentation as a representative of the Valparaiso Ethics Commission.
 - This included the difference between personal and organizational ethics, the idea that government officials should not have any personal gain as a result of their actions, the idea that all decisions should be transparent, and that the public will perceive whether government decisions are ethical or not.
 - The VEC is available if any government officials need advice. They can be contacted by email or phone number. However, complaints must be in writing and notarized.
- Heath Carter lead a reflection on process of developing the HRO.
 - Heath said that it “went about as well as we could have hoped.” He praised the civility that surrounded the process.
 - Ric mentioned his opinion that one of the successes of this process was that members of the HRC and community members all had an opportunity to express their feelings.
- Heath reminded the public that they can contact him via email, welcoming feedback.
- The HRC then discussed the various subcommittees.
 - Tatiana talked about the Educational Outreach and Partnerships subcommittee. They currently have several initiatives, including Valpo Reads a Book, started by the late Alan Bloom; summer camps at VU open to students; shadowing VU and Ivy Tech students (“a day in the life of a college student”), student group collaborations between VHS and VU, and Valpo’s Institute for Teaching and Learning diversity and inclusion best practices.
 - Melissa Washburn talked about the Programming committee. They currently are focusing on a clearinghouse for information relating to the HRC’s goals, exploring the possibility of an HRC grant program, and taking the lead in sponsoring events and speakers related to the HRC’s mission.
 - Chief Brickner, the Chair of the Law Enforcement Relations subcommittee, was absent. Heath informed the HRC that the subcommittee has already met. In June,

they will look at data on police interactions from the month of April. The goal of the subcommittee is to strengthen community ties with the police department.

- Bruce Berner, the Chair of All Together Valpo, was absent. Heath read out an email from Bruce stating that ATV was coming to a conclusion soon. ATV is a three committee structure, dealing with housing, hiring, and inclusion in the community. ATV will report its findings and recommendations in June. It was proposed that ATV coordinate with Valpo Next.
- Heath Carter then told HRC members and the public that they could propose any new business at any time.
 - Heath said that the council is meant to function as a liaison.
 - Ric mentioned that the HRC could try to educate the community more about microaggressions. He discussed a VHS team headed by Cicely Powell.
 - Tatiana mentioned that VU is currently undertaking this issue. She suggested some degree of coordination.
- Next meeting: Monday, June 27th 5:30-6:30