

Valparaiso Human Relations Council Minutes - May 22nd, 2018

Present: John Albers, Jeff Balon, Heath Carter (Chair), Alex Clanton, Hannah Hammond-Hagman, Tatiana Hurtado, Roxanne Mendez Johnson, Cicely Powell, Gene Tanner

1. Heath Carter announced that the Valparaiso International Center was the inaugural recipient of an HRC Cultural Arts Grant. They will receive \$2000 toward their program, "The Power to Forgive—Auschwitz Survivor Story." Representatives from the VIC thanked the HRC for their support.
2. Maggie Clifton gave a brief update on her work as she settles into her new role as Director of Community Relations.
3. Jeff Lewis made a presentation regarding the activities of the ValpoNEXT Equity and Inclusion Board. The presentation focused on the issue of affordable housing. Public comment ensued and during the discussion a group of local clergy presented a letter with 24 clergy signatures asking for the city to take action on the issue of affordable housing.
4. John Albers made a motion that the HRC support the Clergy letter (see attached) and encourage the Mayor and City Council to respond to the issue of Affordable Housing. Tatiana Cochran seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the HRC unanimously approved the motion.
5. The meeting was adjourned.