

## Valparaiso Human Relations Council Minutes - July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Present: John Albers, Jeff Balon, Heath Carter (Chair), Tatiana Cochran, Hannah Hammond-Hagman, Tatiana Hurtado, Bill Lewis, Roxanne Mendez Johnson, Cicely Powell, Gene Tanner, Willow Walsh

1. Heath Carter announced that a new round of HRC Cultural Arts Grant funding is now open. The deadline is September 15<sup>th</sup>. Carter also announced that the HRC will once more have a booth at the Northwest Indiana African American Alliance's Unity Day Festival on August 5<sup>th</sup>. The public is welcome.
2. Heath Carter explained the public that the city administration's response to the recent housing conversations is a new study. A discussion ensued, in which members of the HRC and public expressed some questions and concerns regarding this approach. Carter agreed to speak with the mayor in order to clarify the nature of the study.
3. Maggie Clifton presented on two new initiatives coming out of her office: a city government citizen's academy and a neighborhood grant program. She invited public participation in both.
4. Heath Carter raised a question about whether the city should develop a mechanism for tracking and responding to bias incidents which do not constitute violations of the Human Rights Ordinance. Discussion ensued. Maggie Clifton agreed to workshop the idea of a web-based reporting system with other members of the city leadership team and to report back at the Council's August meeting.
5. The meeting was adjourned.