

Social Service Human Relations Board

Minutes of the Special Meeting, Thursday, August 4, 2011

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL** President Wasko called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were: Vice-President Villareal, Biggs, Dailey, James, Nielsen and Holder

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting May 26, 2011 were approved as corrected. M/S (James / Villareal) Unanimous

3. **AGENDA ITEMS**

3-A. **REPORT ON SSHRB'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MAYOR'S 4TH OF JULY PARADE**

President Wasko reported on SSHRB's participation in this year's parade. At its May, 2011 meeting, the Board approved expenditure, not to exceed \$1,000 to rent and decorate a trolley, and President Wasko volunteered to be the lead person responsible for decorating the Trolley and gathering members of the community to participate in the parade. While she was able to identify some volunteers and community members to ride on the trolley, no other Board members were involved in the effort. With the help of volunteers from Girls Inc, whose entry was directly behind SSHRB's, approximately 700 balloons were given out to viewers along the parade route. More balloons could have been distributed if there had been additional volunteers on the trolley to help inflate and tie them. President Wasko suggested better planning and a greater commitment of Board members to participate, if we are considering having an entry in next year's parade.

3-B. **REQUEST FROM PUBLIC WORKS FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CITY OF ALAMEDA REGIONAL TRANSIT BUS SHELTER, REAL-TIME INFORMATION, AND BIKE ROUTE INSTALLATIONS**

The City of Alameda Public Works Department, while working in concert with AC Transit and Alameda Municipal Power, is submitting a Safe Routes to Transit (SR2T) grant application for **City of Alameda Regional Transit Bus Shelter, Real-time Information and Bike Route Installations**, and is requesting a letter of support from the Board to accompany the grant submission. President Wasko read the services / improvements that would be provided if the grant was to be funded, and explained that Public Works needs a quick turn around (tomorrow) on this request. They suggested that the Board simply use the language in the sample letter, rather than creating a new one.

Member James explained that as someone who uses public transit and has worked for AC Transit, he can attest to the value these improvements and services would bring to Alameda. M/S (Biggs / James) to authorize President Wasko to sign the Letter of Support provided by Public Works to accompany the grant submission. Unanimous.
Copy of signed letter attached.

3-C. REPORT ON AUGUST 3, 2011 ALAMEDA SERVICES COLLABORATIVE MEETING

(Member James needed to leave the meeting during this discussion, and excused himself)

President Wasko made a presentation on the August 3, ASC special meeting to provide agencies and organizations the opportunity to discuss the impact of funding cuts and reductions on their programs. This was a follow-up meeting to one held in May. At that time, many agencies were not yet aware of how deep the cuts in programs and services would be for FY 11/12.

The Food Bank was recently informed they would receive a 30% cut in FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Grant Funds, in addition to the 11% CDBG funding cut already announced. They are planning to use reserve funds, so they will not reduce their service delivery at this time. New client families are currently averaging 3 to 5 per day, and, on one day, had 9 families come in to sign up. Midway Shelter has experienced other cuts (besides their CDBG and FEMA reductions) and currently are looking to community volunteers to come in during the day to provide coverage and programs. Without this help, they will need to close during the day, putting women and children on the streets during that time. Some would go to the library: others to the parks. Other program funding will not be picked up next year.

Other examples of funding cuts and layoffs included the College of Alameda One Stop, and possible delays in affordable housing projects due to the reduction or elimination of Redevelopment Funds. While the ASC meeting included some good news regarding job training and other programs, stories of losses certainly outnumbered them.

The Board discussed effective advocacy measures that would lead to change, rather than having agency clients come in, tell their story, and then have nothing happen. Discussion included the frustration of seeing a Council Chamber full of Golf Course and Dog Park advocates, compared to the challenge of gathering forces to advocate for those in need. The need to get the support of individuals with resources and “stature” in the community and ways to inform and motivate the council in a way that they will become advocates was also discussed.

M/S (Wasko / Dailey) To empower the Board to conduct outreach to elected officials and staff of other agencies to increase community awareness of the shredding of the safety-net of services, including writing letters as appropriate and consistent with the Board’s Charter. Unanimous

3-D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the May 2011 meeting President Wasko and Vice-President Villareal were nominated to continue in their positions. No other nominations were made.

M/S (Biggs / Dailey) Motion for President Wasko and Vice-President Villareal were nominated to continue in their positions. Unanimous

3-E. WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORTS –

Resource Sharing Workgroup – Biggs

Member Biggs announced that West Alameda Group discussion will continue next week with a meeting with Irene Kudarauskas, Executive Director of AFS, regarding collaborative, coordinated

mental health services on the West End. After that meeting, another meeting of the larger group will be scheduled.

4. **BOARD/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA**

President Wasko announced that staff will write a letter on behalf of SSHRB to the ASCA letting them know that the Board no longer has a Sister City Workgroup, but that the Board will continue to be available to support ASCA as needed.

5. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 M/S (Villareal / Dailey) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:
Jim Franz