

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
Wednesday, June 1, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: President Franz Called Meeting to Order at 6:15 pm.

Present: President Franz, Vice-President Chen (Arrived at 6:18 pm), Members Hanna, Bonta, Wasko, Flores-Witte (Arrived at 6:25 pm) **Absent:** Member Hollinger-Jackson **Staff:** Harris

CONSIDERATION OF LETTER TO THE EDITOR REGARDING HATE-FREE CITY
POLICY (taken out of order)

Carol Beaver reported that Interim City Manager Norton approved the SSHRB/ATAH sending a letter to the editor in response to an earlier letter to the editor about discrimination in Alameda, and suggested a change to the third paragraph to reflect the many ways in which children can learn discriminatory behavior, i.e. "A slur overheard from a family member, in the media, or by a member of the community at large can result in hateful behavior in the sandbox the next day."

The letter will be signed "Alamedans Together Against Hate, a work group of the Social Service Human Relations Board." Jim Franz will speak to the Editors of the Sun and the Journal to confirm that they are willing to print a letter without a person's name on it. If they are unwilling to do so, the letter will be signed Dennis J. Hanna, Chair of the Alamedans Together Against Hate Work Group and Jim Franz, President of the Social Service Human Relations Board.

A motion and second (Chen/Wasko) to send the letter to the editor with the above changes was unanimously approved.

WORK SESSION TO REVIEW NEEDS ASSESSMENT PILOT SURVEY RESPONSES:

Harris provided a summary of the first 91 responses to the survey from the Festival of Families. There are additional surveys to be added but they are in Chinese and Harris could not read them. Member Wasko will have one of her staff input the Chinese language surveys.

Harris feels that the survey generated some solid statistics but suspects that some of the survey questions were misunderstood and did not generate accurate results. Harris noted internal discrepancies within the questions, such as people earning large incomes who say they live at Alameda Point Collaborative. Member Wasko noted that the group needs actual statistics on % of questions where answers contradicted themselves before making a decision on how to adjust the survey. Harris stated that she was only giving her impressions and not a scientific analysis of the results. All of the members agreed to individually review survey responses and then consider appropriate next steps at a future AAWG meeting.

The Board considered possible strategies for improving the integrity of the survey responses, including:

- Changing text in some of the questions. e.g. instead of asking of about professional degrees, write down "Master's Degree" or "Doctorate Degree."
- Administering the survey verbally. Some members of the SSHRB felt that this would make people answering the surveys answer more carefully and would allow the interviewer to address question misunderstandings. Others argued that one-on-one administration is too labor intensive and that there would inevitably be inconsistencies in how the document was administered. In addition, people may be more honest if they are not speaking to someone face-to-face. Member Bonta noted that we could simply try to do enough surveys to be able to eliminate any **outliers**.
- Changing question 7 to read "What is the highest level of education that any family member, currently living with you, has achieved?"

WORK SESSION TO PLAN FOURTH OF JULY PARADE ENTRY

Carol Beaver suggested that the focus of the Fourth of July be on the Alamedans Together Against Hate message, with other workgroups listed on banners on the side of the trolley. Vice-President Chen, Member Bonta and Ken Werner will definitely be on the trolley. Member Flores-Witte will be on the trolley if she is not in China. Some Even Start families could also ride.

The group wants to purchase "No Room for Hate" stickers. Susie Brown will price these and specifics can be worked out at a work group meeting next week. Jim will price the cost of armbands with the No Room for Hate in Alameda message.

Carol Beaver asked Alamedans Together Against Hate to fundraise to offset the cost of the event. The SSHRB members agreed to contribute a total of \$150 towards the price of stickers. They will also ask Out on the Island and Alamedans from various organizations to contribute.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Franz called for a motion to adjourn. Motion, second (Bonta/Hanna). Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Harris, Program Specialist II

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