

Social Service Human Relations Board

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, August 25th, 2005

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: President Franz called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. Present were Hanna, Flores-Witte, Bonta via phone, with Hollinger Jackson and Wasko arriving a few minutes late. Absent was Vice-President Chen. Staff present were Beaver and Brown.

Taken out of Order

CO-SPONSORING A UNITED NATIONS 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN OCTOBER – Mr. Herb Behrstock was present and gave an overview of the celebration being planned. In addition to the traditional regional United Nations (UN) event at Jack London Square in Oakland, they are partnering and promoting an event in Alameda. They have so far had a surprisingly wonderful response from agencies and organizations in Alameda and new organizations are joining all the time. The main concept involves a 90-minute event at Kofman Auditorium on October 21, 2005. There will be choirs, children groups, and some local artists to perform/speak. They are asking for a Proclamation from the Mayor that will be read at a September City Council meeting and at the event. This event is to encourage involvement and to promote peace, a healthy environment, to open hearts, and to raise awareness. The planning group is also discussing activities to follow the event, such as Trick or Treat boxes for UNICEF at schools and having an information booklet with all agencies and organizations listed for contact information. This planning group meets every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Behrstock asked the Board to co-sponsor this event and said he hopes that someday Alameda will be a UN City. Sponsorship does not have to include financial commitment. M/S (Bonta / Hanna) for the Board to be a co-sponsor of the event and for a member of this Board to attend the Tuesday meetings and report back was unanimously approved. Member Wasko volunteered to represent the Board on the planning group. Mr. Behrstock thanked the Board for this time and the help in making this event a beneficial one for the people of Alameda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes for the May 26, 2005 meeting were approved with two corrections, M/S (Wasko / Hollinger Jackson) and unanimous. The minutes from the June 1, 2005 Special Meeting were approved M/S (Bonta / Flores-Witte) and unanimous.

CO-SPONSORING A FAIR HOUSING WORKSHOP IN SEPTEMBER – Member Wasko stated she is very much in favor of this and similar activities, especially in view of the Sentinel audit and the Board's subsequent recommendations to the City Council. During discussion, members expressed concern regarding the rapidly approaching date and wanted to know more about the specifics of the presentation since the Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County is not known to the Board. Staff was directed to inform the Housing Authority that the Board wholeheartedly supported the concept, but didn't want to hold up the process while they were getting more information. If the date was set, the Board preferred to wait for another workshop to co-sponsor and would in the meantime learn more about the RHANAC.

CO-SPONSORING ALAMEDA SERVICES COLLABORATIVE MEETING IN SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER – President Franz motioned for the Board to co-sponsor the ASC meeting on September 21, 2005 to discuss the Needs Assessment Survey, and to also co-sponsor the November 16, 2005 ASC meeting which will be a joint meeting with the Alameda Collaborative

for Children, Youth and Families. Meetings are from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Immanuel Lutheran Church social hall. Lunch is provided and no financial support is requested. M/S (Franz / Hollinger Jackson) and unanimous to co-sponsor the September 21 and November 16, 2005 ASC meetings.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS – President Franz explained that Board elections are held annually when the Board is fully constituted. Nominations are taken at one meeting and voted on at the next. Franz stated as much as he and Vice President Chen have enjoyed their leadership roles on the Board, they feel it is time for new leadership. Franz then nominated Member Bonta for President and Member Wasko for Vice-President. Member Bonta graciously accepted the nomination, as did Member Wasko. There were no other nominations. M/S (Franz / Hollinger Jackson), and unanimous. Franz stated the elections would take place at the September 22, 2005 meeting.

WORKGROUPS PROGRESS REPORTS

Assessment and Awareness Workgroup – President Franz reported they have had good response from the faith-based community, but still need more surveys to be completed. Member Wasko stated she is working to get the survey into the school newsletters, and is also getting them translated. Staff reminded the group that having the surveys done on-line is important because there are limited resources for data entry. The AA workgroup is meeting September 7th to continue discussing the survey process and possible resources for producing the report.

Family Services Workgroup – Member Wasko reported this workgroup is on a small hiatus. Beaver stated there had been several recent incidents of domestic violence and reminded the Board that they had convened and were members of a Domestic Violence Task Force in Alameda. Member Wasko indicated that the FS workgroup would consider possible awareness activities to acknowledge Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

Sister City Workgroup – President Franz reported that Vice President Chen sent greetings from China. There were several letters and e-mails back and forth regarding the delegation going to Wuxi, and the end result being that because Wuxi has moved their Festival again back to September it would be very difficult to make the trip. Mayor Johnson sent a letter to the Mayor of Wuxi graciously declining the invitation. The plan still is to send a delegation in Spring 2006. Beaver reported on the International Sister City Conference in Spokane, WA. There were over 500 people present from around the world, although most were from the U.S. She met with the representatives of Chattanooga, Tennessee. They have a long-standing Sister City relationship with Wuxi, China and Alameda will have to get their permission to officially register the Alameda/Wuxi relationship with Sister Cities International.

Alamedans Together Against Hate - Member Hanna reported a meeting date will be set when Member Chen returns in September. The Mayors 4th of July Parade Trolley efforts went very well, and Mr. Werner has suggested banners for both sides of the Trolley next time. The stickers were well received and there are enough left for another event. They had a great meeting with Chief Ojala, Captain Noonan and Lieutenant Cranford and passed along ATAH outreach packets for their command staff. Member Hanna stated that he had received a draft letter to the editor of the Alameda Sun via Ken Werner. It was decided to not act unless this letter ran in the newspaper.

There was a brief discussion as to getting the “No Room..” message out into the community and City buildings.

BOARD/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS – None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

ADJOURNED – President Franz adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Beaver, Secretary

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