

Social Service Human Relations Board
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, January 26, 2006

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER: President Bonta called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. Present were Vice President Wasko, Members Hollinger Jackson, Chen, Hanna, Franz, and new Member Dome. Staff – Beaver, Brown

Introductions – President Bonta welcomed Member Dora Dome and everyone gave a brief introduction. Dome stated she has lived in Alameda since 2001, is an attorney in San Francisco, and will be a member of the ATAH workgroup.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the December 8, 2005 meeting were approved with changes. M/S (Hanna, Hollinger Jackson) and unanimous.
- 3.A. AUTHORIZING ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SEASON FOR NONVIOLENCE – Member Hanna provided an overview of the Season for Nonviolence which is an international event spanning the anniversaries of the assassinations of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King on January 30th to April 4 respectively. The Mayor will issue a Proclamation at the February 7 City Council meeting and banners will be hung on Webster and Park Streets in February and March. The Youth Collaborative has prepared packets of information, including pledges and activities, for use by their member organizations. M/S (Wasko, Franz) and unanimous to have the Chair of ATAH workgroup draft a letter to the editor from the Board, with Bonta and Wasko approving the letter for distribution. Member Wasko volunteered to take information to the next UN meeting and member Franz will take to the February Ministerial meeting. Under discussion, it was noted that recommitment to the principles of the SNV, and materials in the form of posters, stickers, etc. would help highlight the importance of the Season. It was suggested that the “No Room for Hate” posters and other materials be made available on the City’s website for organizations and individuals to download, and that the Board work with the school district to get posters into classrooms. Staff will research the feasibility of these efforts.
- 3.B. AUTHORIZING CO-SPONSORSHIP OF LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL – Member Chen reported that the Inter-Cultural Committee of the Harbor Bay Homeowner’s Association will host a Lunar New Year Festival on March 4th. This is an annual event and the SSHRB/Sister City Project was an event sponsor last year; SSHRB and Sister City information was handed out to attendees who visited the SSHRB table. The Board has been asked to participate again at the \$500 sponsorship level, and to arrange the Mayor’s and the Chinese Consul General’s attendance at the event. Chen stated he has talked to members of the Friends of Wuxi, and they are willing to do some fundraising to offset the cost. The Sister City Workgroup is considering hosting a reception at one of the restaurants prior to the opening ceremony. The workgroup would like to honor the Friends of Wuxi by having the Consul General present them with certificates of appreciation at the reception. Vice President Wasko volunteered to help with a reception if needed. M/S (Franz, Hollinger Jackson) and unanimous to co-sponsor the event at the \$250 to \$500 level, contingent upon the Friends of Wuxi raising said amount, and to explore the possibility of a reception prior to the event where certificates would be presented to the Friends of Wuxi.

3.C. RECOMMENDATION TO CO-SPONSOR THE ALAMEDA SERVICES COLLABORATIVE IN FEBRUARY – Member Franz noted that the ASC comprises community-based organizations who meet approximately quarterly to share information about programs, services and events in Alameda. The lunch meeting is hosted by the Red Cross and Immanuel Lutheran Church. In its role as a disseminator of information regarding social services, the SSHRB has co-sponsored these luncheons since their inception. There is no financial contribution required of the Board. M/S (Wasko, Bonta) and unanimous to co-sponsor (non-monetary) the February 22nd luncheon of the ASC.

3.D. WORKGROUPS

Alamedans Together Against Hate – Member Hanna reported he attended the California Association of Human Relations Organizations on January 9th; that the work sessions were very good, although most of the attendees were staff people from southern California; and that CAHRO went bankrupt a year ago and is in the process of trying to revive and restructure.

Assessment and Awareness Workgroup - President Bonta reported that this group is still working on the Needs Assessment; members are working with staff on data analysis and writing; and anticipated deadline for a rough draft is February 9th.

Family Services Workgroup – President Bonta reported this group met January 12; discussed doing parenting classes; how to support parents of special needs children, and the Festival of Families planned for May 13. They are working on a questionnaire regarding parent education to be administered at the Festival. They also plan to have an expert in child development and resources on hand at the Festival to answer parents' questions. Next AAWG meeting is February 10th. Member Franz stated that the Ministerial Association had invited new AUSD superintendent Ardella Dailey to meet with them and it was very beneficial; suggested that the FSWG might want to take the lead on a similar meeting with the Board. Staff will make an initial contact with Superintendent Dailey.

Sister City Workgroup – Chen reported they are waiting to hear the Mayor's schedule for the trip to China at the end of April or early May 2006; that Wuxi sent a letter offering an opportunity for qualified Alamedans to go to Wuxi to teach for six months to a year with living expenses covered by Wuxi; and that the City Council authorized and the Mayor sent a letter of invitation to Asuchio, El Salvador in December.

3.E. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FROM KEN WERNER REGARDING JANUARY 20, 2006 LETTER TO THE EDITOR ON SUPPORT FOR GAY MARRIAGE – Hanna noted that the Board had received correspondence from Ken Werner, former SSHRB member and ATAH founder, regarding a letter to the editor which appeared in the January 20th *Alameda Journal*. Under discussion regarding an appropriate response, it was noted that a published response would reach more people and provide a forum for constructive discussion. It was suggested that the Board continue to take a more general, conceptual approach to human relations issues and leave it to individuals to rebut the specifics. Wasko said she hoped the letter would be educational and thought-provoking, and it was agreed that Season for Non-Violence letter Hanna

is writing could tie these ideas together in a positive way. M/S (Franz, Bonta) and unanimous for member Hanna to incorporate these ideas into the SNV letter he is drafting.

4. BOARD/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS – The Board inquired as to the joint meeting with City Council and the Mayor. Beaver suggested May 2006 might be a good time, since the CDBG review takes place in March and the April meeting might be impacted by the trip to Wuxi. Staff will check with the City Clerk to schedule the meeting. Hanna offered accolades to President Bonta for his presentation regarding needs at the City Council meeting. Wasko stated she had represented the Board at Beaver's retirement party; that Franz was an excellent emcee; it was great to see Corey Cook; and that the party was also a fundraiser for local non-profits. Beaver reported that about \$1,400 was raised; and then noted that she is happy to be continuing as staff to the Board and workgroups for the time being.
5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None.
6. ADJOURNED – President Bonta adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Beaver, Secretary

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