

Social Service Human Relations Board
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, September 26, 2013

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**

Preside Biggs called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Present were members Radding, Watkinson, Williams, Robles-Wong, and Blake. (Vice-President Villareal joined the meeting at 7:08)

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Special Meeting, August 19, 2013, were approved as presented.
M/S Robles-Wong/ Williams Unanimous

3. **AGENDA ITEMS**

3-A **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER ROBLES-WONG AS THE BOARD'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ALAMEDA SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION**

President Biggs explained that the Alameda Sister City program began as a Sister City Work Group and in 2009 spun off as the Alameda Sister City Association (ASCA), a non-profit organization, but has maintained a relationship with SSHRB. The Mayor serves as the Honorary Chair of ASCA and a representative of SSHRB serves as the Honorary Vice-Chair. We have not had an appointed representative the past few years. Member Robles-Wong is currently a member of ASCA, and a logical choice for us to appoint as our representative and ASCA's Vice-Chair, if he is willing to accept the position.

Member Robles-Wong asked how long the term would be for this position and president Biggs explained that it would be concurrent with his term on the Board.

Member Robles-Wong said he appreciated the opportunity to serve as the Board's Representative adding that he has been working on various projects with ASCA.

A Motion was made that the Board approve the appointment of member Robles-Wong as the SSHRB representative to the Alameda Sister City Association.

M/S Radding / Watkinson Unanimous

3-B **DISCUSS AND CLARIFY THE BOARD'S ROLE IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CDBG PUBLIC SERVICE FUNDING**

President Biggs said that this item came as a result of a discussion at our August meeting regarding changes in this year's CDBG process and how it had the potential of affecting the Board's role in making recommendations for funding. He added that, in doing research as to our historic role in this process, it became evident that, while robust in practice, our role had never been formalized or documented.

He reviewed documents in Attachment A that showed that, at a joint meeting with the Council in 1999, the Council asked that the Board play a role in identifying community needs and making recommendations regarding funding. While this process became practice, it was never formally

adopted as policy. He also explained that, over the years, the Community Development Department provided staffing for both the CDBG program and SSHRB. Due to staffing and administrative changes, some caused by budget cuts, the administration of CDBG funds has been moved to the Housing Authority (HA), which has also recently become an independent agency. In preparing to reprogram funds this year, the HA did not plan for SSHRB to receive Public Comment and make recommendations. At this time, however, the HA has chosen to not reprogram funds this year, and its staff is willing to have a conversation with the Board to determine what the Board's role will be in the future. The discussion will be around what our role has been in the past and what it will be moving forward.

In response to a question asking if our Public Needs Hearing process could be eliminated, president Biggs replied that it was possible, because the only Public Hearing required by HUD is one before the City Council. Staff added however that, HA staff have already requested SSHRB schedule its Public Needs Hearing at its combined November / December meeting, which is an indication that, this year, they are planning to include the Board in this process as they have in the past.

Member Williams requested we get information as to what had happened to the \$20,000 the would have been distributed if funds had been reprogrammed, and suggested that an amendment to the Municipal Code would be an effective way to define what the Board's role in the CDBG process would be moving forward.

Vice President Villareal said that our first priority should be assurance that we will continue the Board's current role in the CDBG process, and then we should seek a change in the Municipal Code or ask for a Resolution institutionalizing the Board's role.

Members suggested the Board's role include:

- The Board's Fall Needs hearing, Needs letter to the Council, and presence at the Council Needs Hearing.
- Process in helping develop the RFP.
- Additional information regarding recipients meeting goals in scope of work.
- Process in reviewing and providing input as to HA staff funding recommendations.

A Motion was made and seconded to authorize President Biggs and staff to meet with HA staff to discuss a proposed process for the Board making recommendations and receiving additional information to help it make informed recommendations.

M/S Villareal / Robles-Wong Unanimous

3-C **WORK SESSION WITH THE BOARD REGARDING 2013/14 WORKGROUP PLANS**

Member Watkinson, Chair of the newly formed Human Relations Workgroup (HRW) shared that the group has met twice and discussed areas of focus that included developing a Community Human Relations Needs Survey and helping nurture expansion of Student Exchange Programs. Their draft Purpose / Mission is "Assess the community's human relations capacities to nurture and develop mutual respect, civility and goodwill between all of our Alameda communities." Jennifer also brought up the idea of having a Youth representative on the Board and/or Workgroup.

Member Villareal, Chair of the ATAH Workgroup shared that, while ATAH was originally formed to respond to acts of discrimination / Hate Crimes, their focus has primarily been with inclusion and community building. Examples included support of Lesson 9, ATAH and HMD participation in 4th of July Parade, NIOT Film screenings at College of Alameda and other locations, leadership in AUSD's LGBTQ Roundtable and the Annual Harvey Milk Day Celebration, and advocacy for the rights of all protected classes. Their draft Purpose / Mission is "Works to promote civility, respect, and goodwill in the community." Member Williams added that the LGBTQ Roundtable had been discussing SB 48, the FAIR Education Act. She provided a brief summary of the Act and offered to make a presentation to the Board in the future.

Member Radding, Chair of the Assessment and Awareness Workgroup suggested that, before embarking on another community survey, the Board gather feedback from the community, City Departments, and non-profits to see if and how they are using the data provided in our last Community Needs Survey.

A discussion followed that supported exploring the feasibility of adding one or more youth to the Board and or workgroups. All agreed that having a "youth voice" would be beneficial to the Board. Questions included how they would be selected, and if they would be voting members. Staff was asked to gather information and it will be shared at the next meeting.

Given the similarity of the HRW and ATAH's Purpose / Mission statements and areas of interest, it was decided that they would meet to discuss how each could be defined as having a separate purpose, and if they should continue as two separate workgroups.

Finally, President Biggs asked that member Williams give a presentation on SB 48, the FAIR Education Act at our next meeting, and asked that staff add it to the agenda.

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

President Biggs announced that APC will have a Free Harvest festival on October 19, with pumpkins, organic food and family activities.

Staff announced:

- The ARPD family event "Everything Alameda" on Saturday, September 28.
- A City council Proclamation on October 2, declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- An ASCA / COA China National Day flag-raising event at City hall on October 1, which may include protestors from the Tibetan community.

5. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

M/S Villareal / Robles-Wong Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by:

Jim Franz
Secretary