

Human Relations Commission
Monday, August 18, 2015
West Senior Center
909 Arapahoe
6:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Agenda Adjustments
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - A. July 21, 2014
- IV. Community Participation (non-agenda action items)
- V. Action Items:
 - A. Resolution on Unaccompanied Immigrant Children
- VI. Discussion/Informational Items
 - A. Work Plan Update
 - 1. Living Wage Public Forum
 - 2. 2014 MEI Scorecard
 - 3. Marriage Equality
 - 4. Proclamations
 - a. PrideFest
 - b. Celebration of Immigrant Heritage
 - 5. September HRC Meeting Location
 - B. Bolder Boulder
 - C. Event Reports
 - D. Follow Up Tasks
- VII. Immediate Action Items
- VIII. Adjournment

Attachments:

Minutes: July 21, 2014

Resolution: Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

Human Relations Commission
Monday, July 21, 2014
Out Boulder Pridehouse
2132 14th Street, Boulder
6:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

José Beteta
Peter Osnes
Emilia Pollauf
Shirly White
Amy Zuckerman

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Carmen Atilano
Kimberly Pearson
Robin Pennington
Karen Rahn

I. Call to Order

The July 21, 2014 HRC meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by **A. Zuckerman**.

II. Agenda Adjustments

The Rockefeller Foundation Grant was added as a Discussion/Informational to follow Event Reports.

It was recognized that this would be **Commissioner Peter Osnes'** last meeting. Out Boulder was thanked for hosting the meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Zuckerman moved to accept the June 16, 2014 minutes. **P. Osnes** seconded the motion.
Motion carries 5-0.

IV. Community Participation

Sara Connell from Out Boulder reported on her activity as the newly hired Transgender Program Liaison, a position funded in part by the HRC through the 2014 Community Impact Fund. They set up a website for trans health resources, important because people across Boulder County and other rural areas will be able to access these online, and a library of trans resources. Nicole Garcia will help with facilitator trainings for support groups and they have increased community organizing to grow trans presence at events. They are pursuing additional money from the Chinook Fund and the Denver Foundation. They want to do more organizing around issues that prevent trans people from accessing resources, using ambassadors to reach out to people one-on-one who are not comfortable coming to a support group, hosting an educational series for local businesses to increase awareness of trans people, hosting a trans awareness week and lending more trans focus at Pride Week.

Samantha "Smash" Field from Out Boulder gave an update on the plans for the 11th annual Pride Week, which will take place Sept. 8 through 14. A total of \$10,000 has been raised so far in corporate sponsorships. PrideFest on Sept. 14 will include vendors, food trucks and a variety of performers from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. A youth and family area will be sponsored by the YWCA with a variety of activities. There will be a literary tent and OASIS will host a children's craft table. The week of events will include a movie night, a queer youth talent show, a happy hour cosponsored with Boulder Independent Business Association, a workshop on Sept. 11 to focus on their theme of "One Community, Many Identities," a kick-off BBQ, a bike ride, a march, queer artists featured at the Saturday farmer's market, and a post-party at Shine. They are working on physical accessibility and are having written materials and announcements translated into Spanish. They expressed an interest in sidewalk painting or chalking and were advised by staff to contact the Planning Department to obtain permission. **J. Beteta** asked if they were aware of and had considered partnering with other organizations holding events the same day (Americas Latino Festival and Ciclovía). S. Field reported that Ciclovía was not interested in pursuing a partnership. T. Maldonado remarked on behalf of the Americas Latino Festival that they would be interested.

V. Action Items

A. **Celebration of Immigrant Heritage Proposals**

1. Presentation: Boulder Latino History Project - Linda Arroyo-Holmstrom reviewed the reception and presentation planned for Oct. 9, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Canyon Theater at the Boulder Public Library. The presentation will introduce the Boulder History Project to the public and present information on the website, which documents a photo collection and written artifacts, oral histories and includes interactive mapping. Videographs are being archived by the Carnegie Library and linked to the project website. The computer-based maps show where Latinos lived between 1900-1980 in Boulder, Lafayette, and Longmont. A school project will provide materials to use in the classroom and support the effort to integrate Latino history and culture into the curriculum. They are also writing a book about the history of Latinos in Boulder County. P. Hernandez talked about his experience and findings from working on the project, which was started one-and one-half years ago. The reception will include appetizers in the gallery, and display artifacts and visuals. Invitations will be mailed. **S. White** asked who would be invited. L. Arroyo-Holmstrom said that the intention was to invite the community and share it more broadly with the public.

2. Exhibit: Boulder Latino History Project – Philip Hernandez reviewed the retractable banners to be created and displayed during CoIH week. The banners (six to eight) will expound on the Mexican-American experience in the Southwest, and the issues around discrimination in public accommodation, housing, employment, as well as violence against Mexican-Americans, in order to tell the story of their history. A sign from the 1950's that stated "We serve whites only - no Spanish or Mexicans" was shown as an example of what would be displayed on the banners. The banners will be 24" by 84" and moveable, so that they can be displayed more than once. The banners will also include quotes from young people to illustrate a more positive future. **E. Pollauf** asked where the banners would be displayed. P. Hernandez stated that they would be displayed during the reception at the library. There was discussion between the commissioners, P. Hernandez and members of the audience regarding other potential locations, primarily indoors depending on weather, including local businesses, other locations in Colorado and elsewhere. Opportunities for publicity were also discussed. P. Hernandez said they will be seeking additional donations to offset the costs of layout. He stated that they would need to ensure that the banners were "child" friendly. **A. Zuckerman** asked if they would entertain displaying the banners multiple times. P. Hernandez said they would be displayed as often as possible. **J. Beteta** expressed support for the project.

Commissioner P. Osnes departed the meeting at this time.

3. Performance: Motus Theater - Audrey Franklin and Kirsten Wilson reviewed the 45-minute drama “Do You Know Who I Am?” that will be performed on Saturday, Oct. 11 at the Boulder Public Library. The autobiographical monologue performance will be followed by a “talk back” with the performers. The performance concerns immigration reform and its impacts on the lives of immigrants and their families, and seeks to educate people on the issues. A three-minute video of clips from the performance was shown. The play will be performed in Spanish in September. **S. White** asked if the city would charge to put the planned 60-second video trailer on its website. **K. Wilson** responded that Channel 8 will sometimes host things for free but that there is a cost to create it. **E. Pollauf** asked for clarification on the advertising budget and the target audience. **K. Wilson** stated that they plan to distribute business cards and flyers throughout the community to bring in additional people who would not otherwise attend. **J. Beteta** commented that he had seen the play. It inspired him to come out as undocumented and be of more service in the community and helps to show resilience to undocumented youth.

Commissioner J. Beteta recused himself from the meeting for the Barrio E’ presentation and the grant funding decision.

4. Performance: Barrio E’ - Tamil Maldonado gave a presentation on the planned performance of the Barrio E’ group who will perform during CoIH week to increase awareness of Caribbean music, arts and culture. The first event held last year was very successful. They would like to repeat it every year and believe it helps to reverse the negative image associated with the word “immigrant.” This year they will display posters related to immigrants from Puerto Rico. **S. White** asked if the location of the event had been finalized. **T. Maldonado** responded that possibilities include the bandshell at a cost of \$400, Pearl Street, which has associated costs for electricity and liability, or the Canyon Theater at the Library, where there may also be a fee. This year they want a location where people can be seated rather than stand for the two-hour performance. **S. White** asked if the Canyon Theater charged for non-profit groups. **C. Atilano** stated that the fee for the Canyon Theater might be waived if done through a city office and certain requirements were met. Further discussion was held regarding the budget items, including an additional item this year for fliers and postage.

C. Atilano confirmed that there was a total of \$4,600 available for CoIH week grant allocation. **A. Zuckerman** proposed an equal allocation to each group and to leave the distribution of funds up to the groups. **S. White** asked for assurance that the **Boulder Latino History Project** banners would be displayed more than once. **P. Hernandez** confirmed. Further discussion was held regarding the potential benefit from the use of the banners beyond the scope of CoIH week. **S. White moved** to approve each applicant in the amount of \$1,150. **E. Pollauf seconded. Motion carries 3-0.**

B. Letter of Support to BVSD - **C. Atilano** reviewed the draft Letter of Support to BVSD. The letter would be presented to council under “Matters From the City Manager” and focus on thanking BVSD for taking on the issue as something important to the HRC and to the community. This would differ from a resolution that asks another institution to develop policy. **J. Beteta** raised a concern regarding continued discrimination in the schools around sexual orientation and the lack of education on this issue. **A. Zuckerman** requested that the letter be amended to include encouragement to BVSD to provide education to its community regarding this issue. **E. Pollauf, A. Zuckerman**, staff and Out Boulder representatives discussed the language used in the letter to describe “gender nonconforming” and it was agreed to go forward without additional changes. **S. White moved** to approve the letter with one revision. **J. Beteta seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

C. Proclamations:

1. PrideFest - J. Beteta moved to forward the proclamation to the mayor for his signature with one revision. **E. Pollauf seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

2. Celebration of Immigrant Heritage - The commissioners discussed attending the Aug. 19 City Council Meeting to call attention to CoIH week and thank council for their support. **S. White moved** to forward the proclamation to the mayor for his signature with one revision. **J. Beteta seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

D. Living Wage Issue: Public Forum - The commissioners discussed holding a public forum on the Living Wage Issue, with potential co-sponsors Colorado Law and Policy Institute, the Boulder Chamber of Commerce, the Latino Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women Voters. A tentative date of Sept. 2 and various potential locations were discussed. Community member Mary Ann Wilner spoke in support of the HRC supporting this issue. She spoke to City Council on June 17 on a related issue concerning City of Boulder contracted janitorial services where workers were being paid minimum wages with no benefits. She offered her help in organizing the forum. **E. Pollauf moved** that the HRC co-sponsor a public forum on the Living Wage Issue. **J. Beteta seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

E. 2015 Community Event Fund RFP - C. Atilano reviewed the draft 2015 Community Event Fund RFP. **S. White** requested that the proposal be amended to encourage youth involvement especially in leadership roles. **E. Pollauf moved** to accept that the proposal be sent out with one amendment. **S. White seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

VI. Discussion/Informational Items

A. Work Plan Update

1. 2014 MEI Scorecard - C. Atilano reviewed the 2014 MEI Scorecard and reminded the commissioners that the HRC subcommittee is reviewing the 2014 MEI Scorecard and recommended that it be placed on the Aug. 18 HRC agenda. **A. Zuckerman** commented that while we received a fairly high rating it was not perfect. The rating itself is not of major significance but it helps us to identify how to make Boulder a better place. The HRC subcommittee will review their findings at the Aug. 18 meeting.

2. Marriage Equality - A. Zuckerman commented that this was one of the top issues identified by City Council and the HRC. Mardi Moore, Executive Director of Out Boulder, gave the commissioners an update on recent local, state and federal activity regarding marriage equality.

B. Bolder Boulder - Mardi Moore, Executive Director of Out Boulder, gave the commissioners an update on the activity around the issue of gender shaming and the slogan “Sea Level is for Sissies” on the Bolder Boulder t-shirt. A meeting will be held with Cliff Bosley, Executive Director of Bolder Boulder, to discuss the issue and its impact on gay men. **A. Zuckerman** requested that this item as well as Marriage Equality continue to be placed on the HRC agenda for updates and discussion.

C. Event Reports – None.

D. The Rockefeller Foundation Grant - Boulder was nominated as one of 32 cities around the world identified to participate in the Foundation’s 100 Resilient Cities network. One of benefits of the grant is a two-year position of a Resiliency Officer. **S. White** asked if the Living Wage issue and staff support would fall under this position. K. Rahn replied that while community resiliency is certainly related to how residents can bounce back from natural or personal crises; the City Manager determines how workload is handled in the city. **J. Beteta** commented that he attended a meeting on 100 Resilient Cities, where they went through exercises to set the priorities for city resiliency. **S. White** requested additional information on the responsibilities of the Resiliency Officer. **A. Zuckerman** commented that it would be good to have that person attend an HRC meeting.

E. Follow Up Tasks – Submission of approved June minutes, initiate contracts for the four CoIH grantees of \$1,150 each, forward to City Council the Letter of Support to BVSD, submit the two proclamations (Pride Fest and CoIH) with revisions to the mayor for signature, release the 2015

Community Event Fund RFP, meet with HRC subcommittee to review the 2014 MEI Scorecard, continue to add Marriage Equality and Bolder Boulder to the HRC agenda for discussion, continue to work with HRC subcommittee on the Living Wage Issue and develop a public forum, forward the job description of the Resiliency Officer to the HRC and request that the person attend a future HRC meeting, research federal legislative actions on the refugee children for recommendation of a possible amendment of City Council's legislative agenda.

VII. Immediate Action Items

A. Zuckerman requested that an action item be added consisting of research on federal action planned around humanitarian action concerning the refugee children entering the U.S., with the intention of requesting City Council to support and amend their legislative agenda. **K. Rahn** explained the process of making amendments. After discussion, it was decided that staff will research the issue and report back to the HRC at the August meeting for further discussion. **S. White moved** to add the additional item. **J. Beteta seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

VIII. Adjournment

J. Beteta moved to adjourn the July 21, 2014 meeting. **E. Pollauf seconded** the motion. **Motion carries 4-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Attested:

Approved:

Board Secretary

HRC Chairperson

City of Boulder Resolution Council Urging Congress to Protect Unaccompanied Minors

WHEREAS, In recent months an unprecedented number of unaccompanied minors have fled their home countries in Central America to seek refuge in the United States, creating a humanitarian crisis and requiring immediate action by the Administration and Congress of the United States; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Customs and Border Protection, the United States government has apprehended approximately 52,000 unaccompanied minors so far this fiscal year and expects to apprehend at least 90,000 by the end of September; and

WHEREAS, Once apprehended by the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, many of these children have been placed in detention facilities and processing centers where they have been subjected to inhumane living conditions for indeterminate periods of time; and

WHEREAS, A recent report from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), found that a majority of unaccompanied minors whom they interviewed that have been apprehended at the U.S. southwest border, many from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, were fleeing instances of extreme violence such as drug cartels and gang activity. Others are victims of human trafficking or were living in poverty and are attempting to reunite with family members already in the United States, traveling alone, and facing unknown dangers and harm along their journey; and

WHEREAS, Many of the U.S. laws and procedures regarding unaccompanied minors are focused on the welfare of the child, rather than detention, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) must place the children in the “least restrictive setting” possible; and

WHEREAS, Addressing the issue of unaccompanied children will require cooperation from all branches of the United States government and appropriate funding to respond to the crisis in a humanitarian and child protection-focused manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Boulder City Council urges the President and Congress of the United States to focus resources on protecting unaccompanied children immigrating into the United States from harm and uphold their right to due process, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Boulder City Council urges the President and Congress of the United States to adopt immigration policies that ensure that unaccompanied minors receive appropriate child welfare services, legal support and expeditious reunification with their families already in the United States; and be it

RESOLVED, That the City Clerk transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from Colorado in the Congress of the United States.

Matthew Appelbaum, Mayor

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