

MINUTES
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, December 16, 2013, 6:00 PM
City Council Chambers, 305 West Third Street, 1st Floor, Oxnard, California 93030

A. ROLL CALL/POSTING OF AGENDA/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Dozier, Kelly, Mitchell, Robinson and Stein.
Absent was Commissioner Baxter.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Will Reed spoke on behalf of the Point in Time Count of Homeless Persons. The count will take place Tuesday, January 28, 2014 from 5 AM – 10 PM. Mr. Reed said the program uses volunteers to help with the count. When volunteers go out in the count, they take pamphlets with them that include information on different kinds of health services and service providers available. Results of the count will be available in April or May. Mr. Reed is available to return to the CRC to present those results. Five public speakers spoke on a variety of community related issues including a gender imbalance on the CRC board, cluttered City of Oxnard website, inconsistencies of City CAG policies and bylaws, the need for more CRC outreach, CRC annual report to City Council, the importance of homeless shelters and public access television. Please refer to video for more details.

C. INFORMATION/CONSENT AGENDA

1. SUBJECT: Minutes from October 21, 2013 - Regular Meeting
RECOMMENDATION: Approved

D. PRESENTATIONS

N/A

E. COMMISSION/NEW BUSINESS

1. SUBJECT: Update on the progress of establishing a social media policy for the City and availability of online streaming and archiving for CRC meetings.
MOTION: It was reported by the CRC Secretary that the social media policy is still being written and that the CRC and other CAGs will have access to online streaming and archiving once the City is able to fine tune it's online system. Staff will continue to add this discussion to future CRC agendas. Commissioner Dozier recommended that the social media policy be rolled-in with the Public Access Television updates.
2. SUBJECT: Discuss agenda items for Annual Planning Meeting scheduled for the regular meeting of Monday, January 27, 2014
MOTION: Chairman Robinson provided a brief overview of what it typically on the agenda for the annual meeting, including election for Chair and Vice Chair and inviting guest speakers to provide ideas and feedback to the CRC. Commissioner Stein commented that the CRC has had a difficult time getting a higher attendance at its annual meeting from City staff and other guests. Commissioner Kelly suggested that maybe the CRC needs to get out in the community more and that may generate a better showing of people at its annual meeting.

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Commissioner Dozier asked if this annual meeting can be made mandatory or a vital meeting in some capacity to department heads. Assistant City Attorney, Rahsaan Tilford, responded by saying that the meeting cannot be labeled as mandatory, but the Commissioners can speak to the City Manager and others to urge their attendance. He also recommended that the Commissioners can individually submit a letter to the City Manager stressing the importance of the meeting and if City staff can please attend. Because it was not agendaized for CRC to write, review and approve a letter, at this time, Commissioners can only individually submit their own letters. Commissioner Stein recommended that each Commissioner identify their top priorities that the CRC needs to address and then that list can be condensed to the top three or top 5 and focus on those items. Assistant City Attorney Tilford recommended that the agenda can be labeled in broad categories so that the discussion can include more feedback. Public comments will also be a part of the annual meeting. Chairman Robinson said the annual meeting agenda would look just like a regular meeting agenda, but with a broader category for discussion. Commissioner Kelly said he has a problem with having a time limit to the annual meeting so there should be no limits. The CRC Secretary will look for a facility available to hold the annual meeting with no time limitations.

3. SUBJECT: Discuss the possibility of the CRC and the Oxnard Police Department to co-host a town hall meeting to address recent gang related violence in La Colonia neighborhood of Oxnard.

MOTION: Commissioner Kelly said he wanted a presentation from someone from the Oxnard Police Department to come talk about all the current gang violence in La Colonia and to get into some questions about the status of some cases, if there is any status pending of some cases, and a question and answer about what's happening in La Colonia. Commissioner Kelly asked the CRC Secretary as to why there was nobody from the Oxnard Police Department at tonight's CRC meeting to provide a presentation. The CRC Secretary reminded Commissioner Kelly that Miguel Lopez from Oxnard Police had emailed Commissioner Kelly recommending that the CRC and Oxnard PD possibly host a town hall type meeting that will allow for a much broader discussion and allow for more participation from invited guests. The CRC Secretary spoke to Miguel Lopez earlier in month in which Mr. Lopez recommended this town hall type meeting and was asking if the CRC would be interested in helping to create it. Commissioner Kelly said what he requested was not for Miguel Lopez to attend, but that a representative of the Oxnard Police Department or Gang Unit be in attendance to answer questions, and not a town hall meeting. Commissioner Dozier said he's in favor in co-hosting a town hall meeting because he personally feels a little uncomfortable to be put in a position as a Commissioner where he may be outside his boundaries legally as far as being representative of the City, or speaking on behalf of a City organization. He said he would feel more comfortable if Council was there and other Police representatives that way everything is kept legitimate. Commissioner Stein commented that he feels Oxnard PD has done a good job in their outreach efforts in the community. Stein asked if they are allowed to do this (town hall meeting) from the standpoint of the CRC powers and duties. Stein asked, what is our objective and outcome? The discussion then focused on the layout of the town hall meeting in regards to speakers, Q&A, etc.

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Commissioner Mitchell commented that people in the community might be more apt to open up more to a group like the CRC without the presence of the Police Department. He also recommended that maybe there should be a pre-meeting with CRC and members of the community, before the group meeting with the Police Department. This will allow the CRC to collect a list of grievances prior to the group meeting with Police. Chairman Robinson said they have to be careful with many legal issues here, including personal liability and he doesn't want to put the CRC in that position. Commissioner Kelly said there could be a process setup so that those things legal issues won't become an issue. Chairman Robinson asked if the CRC should co-host a town hall meeting with Oxnard Police. Commissioner Dozier said he's in favor of co-hosting the event, but that the CRC needs to be unbiased in their representation and not take sides. It needs to represent the community and the Oxnard Police Department. Commissioner Kelly said that the side the CRC should take is the truth. Commissioner Stein all the CRC is there to do is to facilitate and provide a Q&A environment. Staff and the Assistant City Attorney will work on it.

4. SUBJECT: Consideration of guest speakers for future CRC meetings.
MOTION: Discussion will take place at the annual meeting.

F. REPORT OF COMMISSION SECRETARY
N/A

G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMISSION EVENTS REPORT

Community Intervention and Awareness Subcommittee - N/A

Multicultural Festival Subcommittee – N/A

Public Safety Subcommittee – Commissioner Stein reported that he was contacted by Oxnard Police Chief Jeri Williams and the District Attorney's Office to participate in a pre-conference meeting with community leaders at the District Attorney's Office to go over the report he released to the public regarding the Robert Ramirez case. The document is available on the District Attorney's website. Stein also reported that crime is down and DUI enforcement is strong.

Youth Subcommittee – Commissioner Mitchell reminded the public about the tutoring center at the Main Downtown Library.

Neighborhood Councils Subcommittee – Commissioner Dozier reported that his intention with this subcommittee is to use it as a format to outreach to the neighborhood communities. He hasn't attended anything yet, but his intention is to start attending these neighborhood meetings. Dozier also asked how he should represent himself at these meetings. Assistant City Attorney Tilford said to attend as Orlando Dozer, citizen of Oxnard. And, if there's anything interesting, to take note and report back to the CRC and to participate in the public comments at those meetings if he wants.

Fair Housing Subcommittee – N/A

Bylaws Subcommittee – Chairman Robinson instructed Commissioners involved in this subcommittee to continue submitting ideas to the City Attorney's Office.

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H. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Mitchell announced he would be stepping down from the CRC. December 2013 is his final meeting.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM. The next regular Community Relations Commission meeting will be Monday, January 27, 2014, in the Oxnard City Council Chambers, 305 West 3rd Street, Oxnard, at 6 PM.

Ken Robinson, Commission Chair

Luis Guereca, Secretary