

MINUTES
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 15, 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 Baxter, Dozier, Kelly, Mitchell, Robinson and Stein.
Absent was Commissioner Castañeda.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

C. INFORMATION/CONSENT AGENDA

1. SUBJECT: Minutes from March 18, 2013 - Regular Meeting
RECOMMENDATION: Approved

D. PRESENTATIONS

1. Bill Belcher, 2013 California Strawberry Festival Chairman, presented information and about this year's event scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 18 & 19, 2013, at Strawberry Meadows of College Park, 10 AM – 6:30 PM. For more information, visit: www.strawberry-fest.org
2. Will Reed, City of Oxnard Homeless Program Coordinator, discussed details regarding current and ongoing projects and outreach efforts in the city and countywide. For more information, call Will Reed directly at (805) 385-8044.
3. Steve Nash, representative from the Inter-Neighborhood Council Forum (INCF), presented details on the upcoming Candidate Forum, open to the public, and scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2013 in Council Chambers at 6 PM.

E. COMMISSION/NEW BUSINESS

1. SUBJECT: Review and discuss CRC bylaws with an update provided by the Bylaws Subcommittee.

MOTION: No updates at this time. Work in progress. Should have something in writing by next meeting.

2. SUBJECT: Discuss possible CRC social networking sites.

MOTION: Rahsaan Tilford, Assistant City Attorney, suggested that the Commission wait until a social media policy is put in place before the Commission votes on having a Facebook site, or any other social media site that fully represents the CRC. Tilford also informed the CRC that it's okay to have their own personal social media accounts, but not one that represents the CRC or the City of Oxnard. Several issues to discuss on creating a social media site involves some of the following: who will be responsible to update the site, how often, and will the site only post information without interaction with other users? These and other questions can be discussed after a City social media policy is put into place. Commissioner Stein said he wants to move forward on this and asked if the CRC will be invited to provide input on the policy before it gets put into place. Commissioner Stein also requested that Christian Aerenlund, Public Information Officer, be invited to answer questions regarding the policy. Commissioner Dozier asked if the CRC webpage can be updated with more current information.

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Commissioner Baxter noted that the City's Facebook site takes you to OxnardNews.org if you try to post a comment. Commissioner Kelly requested that information be included on the CRC webpage on how residents can file a complaint and how they can contact the CRC. Chairman Robinson requested that this discussion continue and be included in the May agenda.

3. SUBJECT: Discuss how CRC subcommittees constitute a legislative body subject to the meeting and noticing requirements of the Brown Act.

MOTION: Rahsaan Tilford, Assistant City Attorney, provided information on why some CRC subcommittees fall into Brown Act rules. He explained that an on-going subcommittee needs to follow Brown Act rules. He explained the difference between a temporary subcommittee versus an on-going subcommittee. The guidelines explain that more than 3 meetings could be considered a permanent/on-going subcommittee, but there is no written word explaining exactly how many meetings constitute an on-going subcommittee or a temporary subcommittee. The final recommendation from the Assistant City Attorney is to notice all subcommittee meetings, which means creating and posting an agenda and to follow all Brown Act rules that apply to a meeting. This means all regular meetings need to be posted 72 hours in advance, and special meeting posted 24 hours in advance. Chairman Robinson noted that the CRC will notice all subcommittee meetings. It was also noted that two (2) Commissioners meeting at any point constitutes an official meeting.

4. SUBJECT: Discuss proposal for CRC Commissioners to be appointed as Ambassadors of Goodwill and to participate in community related events and meetings on behalf of the CRC.

MOTION: Item was tabled for a future meeting. Additional information needs to be collected before it returns to the agenda. Staff will follow up on this item.

5. SUBJECT: Consideration of guest speakers for future CRC meetings.

MOTION: Commissioner Stein recommended that staff invite a representative of the Oxnard Police Traffic Division such as Jamie Brown. Commissioner Dozier recommended an invite to local community leaders relevant to CRC issues such as church reps, local vineyards. Feed the Homeless reps, etc. Just individuals, not necessarily groups. Commissioner Kelly recommended the invite to leaders from organizations such as civil rights groups, Latino organizations, NAACP. Chairman Robinson recommended a rep from the juvenile justice program such as the Judge that presented at last week's City Council meeting. Commissioner Mitchell recommended we invite a rep from the Casa Program. Commissioner Kelly recommended a social worker rep that works with at-risk children. Commissioner Stein also recommended inviting the new fire chief.

F. REPORT OF COMMISSION SECRETARY

Luis Guereca, CRC Secretary, reported on the outreach efforts to promote this year's CRC Community Recognition Awards. Applications are now available as hard copies and also available for download from the City's website. The program will also be promoted on OxnardNews.org, on Oxnard Citywatch Television, and through the City's social media sites.

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G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMISSION EVENTS REPORT

Community Intervention and Awareness Subcommittee - Chairman Robinson reported on a group from the culinary arts department at Pacifica High School that won a state championship.

Multicultural Festival Subcommittee – Commissioner Stein reported on the enthusiasm of the first planning meeting for the festival. The festival planning committee is focusing on improving vendor placement, setup schedule for vendors, making it a “green” event, developing an emergency evacuation plan, review an adjustment of participation fees, budget review, site map for Commissioner Dozier.

Public Safety Subcommittee – Commissioner Baxter reported on recent and upcoming DUI checkpoints being setup by the Oxnard Police Department. For more information, contact Jaime Brown at (805) 385-7749, or email at Jamie.Brown@oxnardpd.org. Baxter also reported on the Every 15 Minutes program at Oxnard High School scheduled for May 1. The program presents the dangers of driving while intoxicated. Commissioner Stein reported on the new fire truck approved by City Council and the welcoming of the new Fire Chief.

Youth Subcommittee – Commissioner Mitchell reported on the services available at the Homework Center located in the Main Downtown Library, open for students from 1st – 12th grade. Hours are Monday – Thursday from 3 – 7 PM and Saturday 1 – 5 PM. The center provides homework assistance, internet access and computer assistance. Drop-ins are welcome and no appointment is necessary. Some bilingual assistance is available.

Neighborhood Councils Subcommittee – Commissioner Stein reported on the upcoming INCF Candidate Forum in May. He also gave kudos to Justin Glenn as current INCF Chair. Stein also asked if there were any updates regarding the hiring for Donna Helms’ former position.

Fair Housing Subcommittee (N/A)

Bylaws Subcommittee – (N/A) Stein recommended that we contact Joseph Castañeda to ask if he’s interested in signing up for any subcommittees.

H. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

Commissioner Dozier requested that there be a future discussion to raise the visibility of the CRC in the community such as to be included in City Council agendas. Commissioner Mitchell reported that every third Thursday is free admission at the Maritime Museum located on South Harbor Boulevard. This new facility is about 90% completed. Commissioner Baxter reported that Immigration Reform is on its way and a new bill will be unveiled tomorrow and maybe the CRC can include a discussion at a future meeting. For information on Immigration Reform, call 1-888-891-3271. Commissioner Kelly reported on the recent gun control legislation and that people should contact their representatives, senators and congress reps and encourage them to get this legislation passed. Commissioner Stein reported on the recent City Council Strategic Summit held at the Advanced Water Purification Facility. Stein pointed out the importance of Council’s policy and the public perception of Oxnard and to make things more transparent. Stein also reported on the recent issue of the use of soccer fields in Oxnard. He pointed out how a news article in the Ventura County Star reported that the Ventura County United Soccer League Association was accusing of City of Oxnard of racism. Stein feels that the City is not being racist to those that want access to soccer fields. He feels that the City is doing what it can to give everybody access to the fields and it is more difficult due to cutbacks and a shortage in fields. Chairman Robinson reported on the upcoming graduation ceremonies at all our local schools.

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I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM. The next regular Community Relations Commission meeting will be Monday, May 20, 2013, in the Oxnard City Council Chambers, 305 West 3rd Street, Oxnard, at 6 PM.

Ken Robinson, Commission Chair

Luis Guereca, Secretary