

Huntington Beach Human Relations Task Force

June 3, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

I. Roll Call: 6:45 pm

Present: Dagley, Garrick, Knowles, Tyler, Dahman, Johnson, Malik, MacDonell

Absent: Lee-Goodman

Staff Liaison: Kuhnke

Police Liaison: Det. Reilly

II. Welcoming Remarks by Chair Dagley

Chair Dagley welcomed all present.

III. Public Comments:

IV. Special Reports/Presentations:

A. Report on Westminster High School (WHS) Museum of Tolerance Field Trip - Garrick reported that WHS students were unable to attend the meeting, however, Brian Sira, a teacher at Westminster High School, had communicated that the field trip was a powerful learning experience and that students had already been encouraged to conduct further research into related topics. It was definitely a valuable trip for the students.

B. Deborah Reisdorph, Bully Awareness Resistance Education (BARE) - Ms. Reisdorph provided an overview of their program. She explained that Seth's Law, passed in 2012, requires that every school district must have policy to prevent and intervene against acts of discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying. Her program is used in middle schools and provides teachers, administrators, parents and students with tools to both prevent and intervene against bullying by stressing communication, leadership and social skills. She stated that they are having difficulty getting their program into the HB schools, even though the parents really want this. Kuhnke suggested and TF members concurred of the importance of contacting school board officials directly, rather than administrators and teachers at individual schools. Reisdorph will follow-up on this suggestion.

V. Approve Minutes:

Motion to approve May 6, 2014 minutes as presented. Moved: Knowles; Seconded: MacDonell, Yes: (8), No: (0); Absent (Lee-Goodman). Motion passed.

VI. Status Reports:

1. Hate Crimes/Incidents:

Detective Reilly reported that there were no new hate crimes reported in May.

2. Coordinating Council (CC) News/Activities:

Garrick reported that new officers were installed: Judy Morris, President; Don Garrick, Vice President in charge of membership. The meeting topic was Toast Masters and the speaker was Mike Haywood. It was suggested that information on volunteer opportunities be posted on HBVolunteers.org. The CC will be dark through early October.

3. OC Human Relations News/ Activities

Malik reported that the Legacy Award banquet was held and that Dagley and Garrick attended it. There was a fund raising component this year, which was new. Information on the honorees is posted on www.OChumanRelations.org.

4. HB Reads 2014 News/ Activities

Book selections are being read by the committee. If anyone has a book suggestion, go to www.HBreads.org to submit a form.

5. HRTF Donation Account Balance:
Kuhnke reported the balance at \$1,872.87

VII. Updates, Planning, and Possible Motions pertaining to the following events/programs:

1. Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee:
Malik was able to secure \$500 grant from Hoag hospital for Be-YOU-tiful conference. No further update was available, since Melissa Appleby was not able to attend meeting.
2. Report form AD Hoc Museum of Tolerance Trip Committee:
Suggestions were requested from Garrick for schools that might want to attend MOT next year.
3. HRTF Student Representative Programs
Garrick reported on the Social Justice Evening held at HB high school. The event included tables with information on different campus clubs, bands, presentations on topics such as human trafficking, art projects, film on human relations topic, and T-shirts on display around the school that were emblazoned with the names of students killed by violence on campuses around the country.

Student representatives were provided with certificates from HRTF, presented by Chair Dagley at their final meeting. Johnson suggested the possibility of scheduling a student planning meeting and volunteered to assist in the development of programs for the new school year. Garrick will follow up with school officials for possibilities of when and where these meetings might take place.
4. Report from Charter on Compassion Committee
Garrick reported that the Compassion Games are scheduled for September 11 – 21. A request was made for a volunteer to represent the HRTF. Tyler volunteered to be the representative and Dahman agreed to be the alternate. Kuhnke will ensure that Tyler is on the notification list for the meetings.

Motion to appoint Tyler as HRTF representative to Charter on Compassion committee.

Moved: Garrick. Seconded: Johnson. Yes (8); No (0); Absent (Lee-Goodman). Motion approved.

5. Follow up Research to Identify School Response to New Anti- Bullying Laws
MacDonell and Johnson distributed detailed data on suspension, expulsion and truancy for the Huntington Beach schools. The HRTF then participated in an exercise to look at various interpretations of the data presented. MacDonell and Johnson will compile the various comments and discuss it further next month.

VIII. New Business and Possible motions pertaining to:

1. Follow up on program to purchase diversity books for school libraries
This item be removed from the agenda for the next few months, since there is no activity currently.

IX. Task Force Member Comments:

MacDonell requested that an item be placed on the next agenda to discuss possible anti-bullying activities, including the hanging of a banner across Main Street, in recognition of anti-bullying month in October. She also inquired regarding the progress of the activities associated with the homeless. Dagley indicated that he is attending a meeting at Ralph Bauer's home in the next month and will follow-up as appropriate. Kuhnke reported that Mayor Harper recognized June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month at the June 2 City Council meeting.

Adjournment at 8:45 pm to: July 1, 2014, Huntington Central Library, B Room at 6:45 p.