

City of Billings
Human Relations Commission

Agenda
For The
June 3, 2010
Meeting of _____

Location of meeting: Finance Conference Room (check at Executive Secretary's Office for directions)

I. Welcome & Introductions:
Donna Boyer, Private Citizen, Potential Member
Joe Splinter, Montana Conservation Voters, Potential Member

Excused Absences:

II. Announcements/Events:

III. Public Comment (10 minutes).

IV. Old Business:

- ◀ Review of Previous Minutes:
- ◀ Homework Update:
- ◀ Billings Task Force Reports:

V. New Business:

- ◀ Letter to the Billings Gazette Editor

IV Adjournment

City of Billings Human Relations Commission
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City of Billings Human Relations Commission

Chair's Report and Recommendations for Action
February 4, 2010

At the September 2009 meeting, the group said they would like to look into hosting a dialogue among the community and local law enforcement. The Chair suggests the following for discussion at the February 2010 meeting:

Patt/Gwen – Contact Eran Thompson, NIOT, to gauge their interest in collaborating on the forum. Done Jan.6. It was agreed that April 27 at 7pm would be good. MSU-B Community Services Director, Mr Carter (dcarter@msubillings.edu) told Claudia to contact him regarding free meeting space for the forum—this contact was made as a result of her keynote speech at their MLKJ celebration, Jan 18.

By, the 11/1/09 meeting, HRC members could determine what outcome they would like the workshop to Have, draft some questions community members might ask, have suggestions as to what other groups we could contact to invite their members to participate in planning (announcements at Neighborhood task force meetings)and follow-up after the workshop. Done. See November 5 and Jan 7 minutes.

Ian/Diane/ —Would you volunteer to see what costs we might have for such a meeting & how we might contact investors (MSU-B, Wells Fargo) and interest them in contributing to the cost (posters, public service announcements)

Patt/Mike/ – Would you volunteer to contact the Police, Sheriff and MSU-Police to see if they would send a representative to such a meeting. We would have to have decided when (date, time) , where and what would be discussed, first. In progress.

Claudia has to draft the invitation letter to police representatives and send it to HRC members for input. Any suggestions for people, organizations that should be pointedly invited? Any other organizational needs?

Completed Actions:

February 1: Claudia presented our 2009 activities report to the City Council at their work session. Please see the attached report. Mike Crummett and Diane Foley were recognized by City Council members. Claudia said the purpose of the Commission is to improve positive human relations in our city. She said the Commission hears complaints from citizens on racism and discrimination, provides mediation when possible, makes referrals when appropriate and relays circumstances to the City Council when necessary. She said the Commission also seeks to prevent racism and discrimination by advancing the work of existing organizations and civic groups that host such events, trainings and offerings. City Council members asked how community partners gave their input to the HRC and the HRC composition. Claudia said HRC members also serve on many of the organizations that focus on social justice issues and attend neighborhood task meetings. Claudia named HRC members, their affiliations, specialties, areas of concern and noted that we had 2 Native Americans that had applied for vacancies and that there applications were yet being reviewed. Tina commended the HRC for being ready to provide direct referral for Spanish language interpretation, for assisting in representing the City at the Mexican Consulate's visit in 2009 and for providing valuable insight in prevention of human relations conflicts. A City Council member congratulated the HRC for their impressive accomplishments over the year and another City Council member said how pleased she was to have some fine representation on such important matters