

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

www.palmspringsca.gov

MEETING AGENDA

LOCATION: PALM SPRINGS CITY HALL – Large Conference Room
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way

Monday,
March 9, 2015



3 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS

Dee Dee Wilson Barton, Chair
David Brown
Jilaska Chandrasena
Janel Hunt

Jack Newby, Vice Chair
Wes Rankins
Suzanne Severin
Deborah Sutton-Weiss
Les Zendle

Student Representatives

Maddie Barton, Palm Springs High School, Josh Rodriguez, alternate
Maribel Wright, Raymond Cree Middle School

Staff Liaison:

Lee Bonno
Director of Neighborhood & Community Relations

City of Palm Springs Vision Statement: Palm Springs aspires to be a unique world-class desert community, where residents and visitors enjoy our high quality of life and a relaxing experience. We desire to balance our cultural and historical resources with responsible, sustainable economic growth and enhance our natural desert beauty. We are committed to providing responsive, friendly, and efficient customer service in an environment that fosters unity among all our citizens.

Pursuant to G.C. Section 54957.5 the designated office for inspection of public records in connection with the meeting is the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California.

It is the intention of the City of Palm Springs to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting or in meetings on a regular basis, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, (760) 323-8255, TDD (760) 864-9527, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

(Please **TURN-OFF** all cell phone ringers during this meeting - thank you!)

1. CALL TO ORDER:
2. FLAG SALUTE:
3. MISSION STATEMENT: "The Mission of the Palm Springs Human Rights Commission is to promote and protect the diversity of our community and to improve human relations through education and community awareness."

4. ROLL CALL:
5. POSTING OF THE AGENDA: This Agenda was available for public access at the City Hall exterior bulletin board (west side of Council Chamber), the City Clerk's office, and Planning Services counter on or before 4:30 p.m., March 5, 2015. A courtesy web site posting of the Agenda may be found at the City's web site www.palmsprings-ca.gov. Pursuant to the Government Code Section 54957.5, the designated office for inspection of public records in connection with the public meeting of the Human Rights Commission is the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, at 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California.
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Three (3) minutes per speaker
7. GUEST SPEAKER: Allison Hayes, an administrator with the Riverside County Office of Education, will speak about Cultural Proficiency.
8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEB. 9, 2015 MEETING
9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / AND OR VOTE
 - 9.A Review of the Commission's Participation in the Black History Month Parade
 - 9.B Participation in the Palm Springs Neighborhood Involvement Committee's Picnic & Community Expo, Saturday, March 28, 2015
 - 9.C Expectations for Commissioners
 - 9.D Date of the next year's Community Service Awards presentation. Possibly moving it to February.
 - 9.E Mediation Services Update – Commissioner Severin
 - 9.F Upcoming topics and focus of Commission - April through July and Commissioner assignments - April through July. June speaker - Ralph Gonzalez from Desert AIDS Project, speaking on AIDS/HIV in our youth population in Palm Springs.
10. STUDENT COMMENTS:
11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:
12. STAFF COMMENTS:
13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 13, 2015 HRC MEETING:
14. ADJOURNMENT:

Enclosures:

1. Minutes from the Feb. 9, 2015 HRC meetings
2. Expectations for Commissioners

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETINGS at 3:00 p.m. THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
of the
City of Palm Springs

Minutes from Feb. 9, 2015 Meeting

<u>COMMISSIONERS</u>	<u>Present at this Meeting</u>	<u>Present FY Year-to-Date</u>	<u>FY 2014-15 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2014-15 Unexcused Absences</u>
Dee Dee Wilson Barton	X	7	0	0
David Brown	X	6	1	0
Jilska Chandrasena	X	4	2	1
Janel Hunt	X	6	0	1
Jack Newby	0	6	0	1
Wes Rankins	X	7	0	0
Suzanne Severin	X	7	0	0
Deborah Sutton-Weiss	0	4	3	0
Les Zendle	X	6	1	0
Maddie Barton, Student rep.	X	6	0	0
Maribel Wright, Student rep.	0	3	0	0

The above roll call record is based on all meeting Minutes from July 14, 2014 thru Feb. 9, 2015

1. Chair Wilson Barton called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.
2. Student Representative Maddie Barton led the flag salute.
3. Commissioner Chandrasena recited the Mission Statement.
4. Commissioners Present: Brown, Chandrasena, Hunt, Rankins, Severin, Wilson Barton and Zendle. Student representative Maddie Barton was also present. Commissioners Absent: Sutton-Weiss, excused; Newby, unexcused.
5. **POSTING OF THE AGENDA:** The agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act on or before 6 p.m., on Feb. 4, 2015.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
7. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE DEC. 8, 2014 AND JAN. 12, 2015 MEETINGS:** Following a motion from Commissioner Zendle and second by Commissioner Hunt, the minutes from the Dec. 8, 2014 and the Jan. 12, 2015 HRC meetings were unanimously approved 7-0 (Vice Chair Newby and Commissioner Sutton-Weiss absent).
8. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/AND OR VOTE**
 - 8.A Participation in the Black History Month Parade, Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015: Commissioner Hunt volunteered to complete and submit the application for the HRC to be in the parade and will serve as the Commission's liaison to the parade. Chair Wilson Barton, Commissioners Brown, Chandrasena, Rankins, Severin and Zendle all said they could represent the HRC in the parade. Chair Wilson Barton will write the parade announcer's script and provide her electric vehicle and music and Commissioner Severin will bring the HRC banner. Chair Wilson Barton will email information about the parade to Vice Chair Newby and Commissioner Sutton-Weiss who were not at the meeting.
 - 8.B Participation in the Palm Springs Neighborhood Involvement Committee's Picnic & Community Expo, Saturday, March 28, 2015: Commissioner Rankins volunteered to complete and submit the application for the HRC to have a booth at the event and Commissioner Brown volunteered to bring the table, popup and other items as well as hand-out materials. Which Commissioners will staff the booth will be decided at the

March HRC meeting. Chair Wilson Barton will update the Commission's flier with information for April, May and June so it can be handed out at the event. Chair Wilson Barton will donate the funds for candy and Commissioner Rankins will buy it.

8.C Community Service Awards Critique and Review the Criteria for the Awards: Topics discussed included press efforts and response; possibility of a reception, promoting the event at a City Council meeting, having a professional photographer, printed invitations or an invitation template for email distribution, thank you notes, student involvement and attendance. Chair Wilson Barton said each Commissioner has a responsibility not only to nominate award recipients but also to invite people to attend. The Commission also discussed having the awards presentation in February instead of January. Although the Commission spent time critiquing the event to make it better, Commissioner Zendle noted that it was a very successful event. In discussing the number of awards, Chair Wilson Barton suggested limiting it to 10. Commissioner Zendle agreed that the goal should be to have 10 or fewer award recipients. Commissioner Rankins said the Commission should find out what other events are taking place in February that might compete for media coverage before moving the awards presentation to that month. The consensus was to check community calendars and look at moving the awards presentation to February. The topic will be on the HRC's June agenda for a decision on when the awards presentation will be made. In reviewing the criteria for awards, Commissioner Zendle explained giving an award to a separate entity within a larger organization that has already received an award.

8.E Upcoming topic and focus of the Commission – March through July and Commissioner assignments – March through July: Commissioner Hunt has arranged for Allison Hayes, an administrator with the Riverside County Office of Education, to speak to the Commission about cultural proficiency. Ms Hayes will be the guest speaker at the March 8 HRC meeting. Commissioner Chandrasena said she has arranged for four agencies to address the Commission on the topic of disabilities – the Chamber of Commerce regarding Palm Springs hosting athletes who will be competing in the Special Olympics in Los Angeles, the Braille Institute, Veterans Affairs Office and Kathy Little, Special Education Director for the Palm Springs Unified School District. Commissioner Severin asked if the Commission could receive information before the meeting about the topic the guest speakers will be addressing. Two of the four speakers on the topic of disabilities will address the Commission in March and the other two in April. Chair Wilson Barton said she would contact Vice Chair Newby regarding the topic of AIDS/STDs in the high school for the June HRC meeting.

Commissioners Hunt and Chandrasena left the meeting at 4 p.m.

8.D Mediation Services: Commissioner Severin said mediation training will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 11 in the Large Conference Room at City Hall. Commissioners Rankins, Hunt, Sutton-Weiss and Chandrasena have signed up for the training to be conducted by Commissioner Severin and former HRC Chair Jerry Trussell. Commissioner Severin said she and staff met with the City Attorney regarding expanding the Commission's mediation services. He recommended the Commission's expanded mediation focus on cases referred to the HRC by City departments. Commissioner Severin said this will give the Commission exposure as to the services it can provide to the City. After meeting with the City Attorney, Commissioner Severin said before the program begins, a discussion needs to take place first with the City Manager, then with City Department Directors and then what is being proposed needs to be presented to the City Council.

9. **STUDENT COMMENTS:** Student Representative Maddie Barton said on Jan. 21 the high school had a lock-down drill to practice what to do if a shooter were to be on the campus. Also, at the high school, more than 900 students earned academic awards, she said. The high school also added a new group counseling program in conjunction with Safe House of the Desert, she said.
10. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** Commissioner Severin said she participated in the homeless count at the end of January. She also said that when Palm Springs got its Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index Score of 100 an article appeared in the newspaper with information about the cities that received a score of less than 100. She said she drafted a letter to Cathedral City and Rancho Mirage offering to share with them what the Palm Springs HRC does in an effort to increase their scores. The letters were signed by Chair Wilson Barton. Commissioner Rankins said he participated in the Day of Action that took

place at the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center along with about 300 volunteers, Chelsea Clinton, Mayor Pougnet and City staff. He also spoke about upcoming Black History Month activities. Chair Wilson Barton praised Commissioner Severin for her work on the mediation program and Commissioner Zendle for his work chairing the Community Services Award subcommittee.

11. STAFF COMMENTS: None
12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 9, 2015 HRC MEETING: The guest speaker for the month was discussed earlier in the meeting.
13. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee A. Bonno
Staff Human Rights Commission Liaison
Director of Neighborhood & Community Relations

DRAFT



PALM SPRINGS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC)

AGENDA and EXPECTATIONS for COMMISSIONERS (2014-2015)

1. Attendance at monthly meetings (11 per year – off August)
2. Mandatory attendance at September Planning Session
3. Lead and participation in at least one Subcommittee
 - Community Service Awards Nominations (3)
 - Parades (1)
 - Press (2)
 - Mediation (1-2)
 - Website (2)
 - Literature/Event Set Up/Storage Management (1)
 - Outreach to other cities (2)
 - Vice Chair (1)
 - Chair (1)
4. Once a year, attend any public event you'd like and be a rep for HRC
5. 'Own' a monthly meeting by arranging speaker, topic and publicity (typically driven from September Planning Session)
6. Participate in HRC events
 - Community Service Awards (in January or February)
 - Nominate community members for award
 - Invite your personal communities to attend awards
 - Personal outreach
 - Emails
 - Take fliers to community forums, bulletin boards, etc.
 - Welcome awardees prior to City Hall ceremony
 - Give out one award at ceremony
 - Parades (Black History – typically last Saturday in February; Pride – typically first Saturday in November; and others (Veterans?))
 - Neighborhood Picnic (in March)
7. Promote and invite public attendance at HRC meetings and events.
8. Demonstrate professionalism and commitment (*follow through, thank you notes, greet/welcome guests, timely contact*)