COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISION

Regular Meeting

APRIL 4, 2016

Civic Center

Members Present: Melissa Meechan, Lynn Love, Harelda Anderson, David John, Mark Marquez and Charles Kromer

Members Absent: Cathryn Abeyta

Staff Present: Robert Campbell, Ass't City Manager; Julie Baird, Ass't City Manager and Joanna Oliver, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Melissa Meechan called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm with a quorum of members present; the following procedures were duly had and taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charles Kromer a motion to approve the March 7, 2016 minutes, Lynn Love seconded. Motion passed.

OPEN RESOLUTION

Mark Marquez moved to accept the Open Meeting Resolution, keeping the Community Relations Commission meetings on the first Monday of every month at 4:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. Charles Kromer seconded. Motion passed.

CIVILITY FIRST UPDATE

Lynn Love would like to table the electronic signs to next month for lack of information. He is working with Shana regarding the Gateway Museum. He was unable to get to Durango on the 19th, but will call Mr. Bolden and follow up. Melissa Meechan does not have any updates at this time.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Melissa Meechan will follow up with Cathryn regarding the PSA's since she is not at the meeting today.

CHAP MEETING

Julie Baird gave the Commission an overview of the last CHAP meeting that was held March 31, 2016. The groups' discussion was regarding their purpose and wanting to maintain the venue to be able share information between Community Service providers but to also recognize some projects that they can do to help forward the information to the community. Their guest speaker was Jessica Polatty, from the Bloomfield Senior Center, to tell us a little bit about the

homeless and what they are seeing over there. We also invited someone from Aztec, but she was unable to make it. There has been some discussion that CHAP was, although it did form off of this group, that it is Farmington based. At the same time, homelessness is County wide and State wide. Wanted to bring in Bloomfield and Aztec to share this information. Mark Marquez asked that since oil and gas industry has decreased, has there been a noticeable change in the homelessness. Julie stated that the increase started within the last year, even before the layoffs happened. They are not sure why but part is employment and also part is that Farmington is the only place in the area that offers a winter shelter. She also understands that there has been a strengthening of panhandling in Durango and whether or not that has brought homeless down. The Sober House has taken over for Four Winds and we are paying attention to those numbers and it will still be a few weeks before the JIP is on line. The group is also having discussions of what people don't think of in terms of homelessness i.e. students at the college. They bounce from friends couch to friends couch and even though they are not out on the street, they have no home.

OLD COMMISSION BUSINESS

- Grant – Cathryn Abeyta – Table to next month
- Women's History – Bob Campbell stated that we did two postings on the City's Facebook and we had 2,350 hits.
- Survey's Back - Bob Campbell stated that we have received some surveys online but will get the information for next meeting when Shana gets back. We did have 357 hits on the website.
- Strategic Planning Meetings - Melissa would like to set up the first meeting for April 13th at 5:30 for the first meeting.
- Cinco de Mayo – Melissa is waiting on Don to get back with her regarding the sponsorship.

NEW COMMISSION BUSINESS

- Melissa Meechan brought up the article in the paper regarding David John and commended him on representing the CRC in a positive way.
- Melissa Meechan presented the CRC's annual report at the City Council meeting. David John stated that the City Council and the Mayor wants us to re-connect with the Navajo Human Rights Commission because they have new leadership.
- Joanna reminded Lynn, Mark and Harelda that they are registered for the Human Rights Conference that is set for April 16th at the College.

CITIZEN INPUT

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Melissa Meechan, Chairman

Joanna Oliver, Secretary