

AGENDA ITEM

500

MINUTES

MEETING DATE 1-3-89

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION, THE HUMAN SERVICES
COMMISSION AND THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH, 1988 AT 7.00 PM
2415 UNIVERSITY AVENUE EAST PALO ALTO, 2ND FLOOR RM 20

Commissioner Prince was nominated as interim chairperson, seconded by
Commissioner Hartley, the nomination was passed unanimously.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Interim chair Prince called the meeting to order at 7.40PM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- I) ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION: Trevor Burrowes (Chairperson),
Judith Chute Hsiang
ABSENT: Shadidi Harding (Excused), Barbara Witherspoon
- II) HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION: Benjamin Ahmad (Chair), Chester
Prince, Nobantu Ankoanda, Fleta Bigsby.
ABSENT: Rosetter Crockett, Anocratic McGill, Grayelin de Young
- III) PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION: Robert Hartley, (Vice Chair)
Brenda Fuller (Alternate), Jennifer Jackson.

STAFF PRESENT: Mada O. Okelo

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: B. Ahmad/T. Burrowes (6-0)

3. COMMUNITY FORUM AND COMMUNICATIONS:

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. MERGER OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE, HUMAN SERVICES AND PARKS AND
RECREATION COMMISSION

Introduction:

Staff indicated that, since the cutbacks in staff and other
resources, it had become increasingly impossible for the
department to provide adequate staff support to the three
commissions. It has also been clear that interest in the
participation in commission affairs had significantly dwindled
within all the the three commissions. Indeed, several regularly
scheduled meetings have had to be cancelled because of a lack of
quorum. This situation leaves the city with very few options: one
the city could dissolve all the three commissions and reconstitute
them as soon as the fiscal horizons of the city changes or two the
commissions could all be merged into one commission that could,
with an appropriate sub-committee structure would still discuss
issues relating to the three areas of Arts and Culture, Human
Services and Parks and Recreation.

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Discussion:

Two issues of concern emerged:

i) Commissioner Hartley (Parks and Recreation Commission) suggested that a merger might contribute to a loss of vitality. Commissioner Ahmad however indicated that the opposite would indeed be the case. Noting that the new commission would be comprised of committed individuals who have in the past sustained the life of the three commissions.

ii) Commissioner Ankoanda worried over the permanence of such a change. Would the commissions be restored after the situation with the city changes? Commissioner Burrowes suggested that the city might have advanced a little too fast in its efforts to emulate the commission/advisory body structure of other cities. Noting that this city was not as well endowed, he suggested that we should approach the merger as a creative response to an ever changing situation.

Staff reminded the Commission that all power lay with the council and that it could choose to restore or not to restore the Commissions in the future.

Action:

Motion was made and seconded (Hartley/Burrowes) that the the Council be asked to merge the Arts and Culture , the Human Services and the Parks and Recreation Commissions.

Motion was passed (9-0)

Commissioner Jackson suggested that the new body needed to define its goals and objectives before its next meeting. She urged the new body to move away from the discussion mode into an action mode. She urged the to go back to the community and ask for project ideas. She noted for instance that something needed to be done during the upcoming Martin Luther Kings Birthday and Black History Month.

Commission Ahmad pointed out that all the three commissions had over the years developed projects, he suggested that the all the project ideas from the three commissions be merged and reprioritized. Noting that some of those projects might cost money, he indicated that the new body might have to undertake fundraising endeavours. Commissioner Ahmad further indicated that the ordinance creating the new body would clearly spell out the mandate of the new advisory body.

Commissioner Bigsby underscored the need to understand the body's goals and objectives before it decides to undertake specific projects. She suggested that the new body dovetail on the projects being undertaken by other organizations especially around the celebration of Kings Birthday and Black History Month.

5. ALL OTHER BUSINESS:

i) Next Meeting /Agenda: Wednesday, January 4th at 7.30PM at 2415 University Avenue. Agenda: Martin Luther Kings Birthday, Balck History Month, and Workplan meeting date.

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ii) Regular Meeting of the new Commission: The group agreed that the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30PM would be a good time for all the members present.

6. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, it was moved and seconded (Ankoanda/ Jackson) that the meeting adjourn (8.45PM)

JOINTCOM

S E C R E T A R Y