



COMMUNITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

CITY OF EL PASO FAIR HOUSING TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES June 20, 2017

1. A meeting of the Fair Housing Task Force Committee was held at Park O'Rourke Recreation Center Conference Room and was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Christine Gallegos, Chairperson.

Board Member	Present	Absent
Christine Gallegos	X	
Arlene Alarcon	X	
Adam Gurrola		X
Marc A. Salazar	X	
Rosa I. Estrada	X	
Kimberly Cook-McDaniel	X	
Bill Schlesinger	X	
Todd Miller		X
Sergio Vasquez	X	

City staff present: Art Rubio, Juan Gonzalez and Sandra Pellegrini.

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. Introduction of new Committee Members Arlene Alarcon and Kimberly Cook-McDaniel.

3. Review and approval of minutes dated March 14, 2017. Committee members were asked if there were any questions or revisions.

Motion made by Bill Schlesinger and seconded by Sergio Vasquez to accept the March 14, 2017 minutes as is.

Ayes: Christine Gallegos, Arlene Alarcon, Marc Salazar, Rosa Estrada, Bill Schlesinger and Sergio Vasquez.

Nays: None

4. Discussion on National Fair Housing Month Activities

Presentation of the resolution from the Rio Grande Council of Governments in celebration of the National Fair Housing Month, April 2017.

5. Update on YWCA Fair Housing Education and Outreach Activities

Presentation of Fair Housing education activities carried out by the YWCA in the City of El Paso during the month of May 2017. The YWCA has surpassed the Fair Housing outreach and education goals set for the current year. Ms. Muela provided information on education and outreach activities planned for the month of June 2017.

6. Discussion and action on Fair Housing Complaints investigated by HUD

Review of Fair Housing complaints originated in the City of El Paso on 2015 and 2016. Information included type of complaints, dates, persons and entities that filed those complaints and disposition. Committee members discussed the feasibility of conducting telephone testing in El Paso. Committee members discussed adding the cost to the current education contract or to create a partnership with an outside agency such as Volar or CityVision. Sergio Vasquez provided additional information on processes and resources needed to conduct telephone testing. Mr. Schlesinger suggested to reach out to CityVision and inquire if they would be interested in conducting telephone testing on behalf of the City of El Paso.

Motion made by Bill Schlesinger and seconded by Marc Salazar to reach out to CityVision and ask for information and support to conduct telephone testing in the City of El Paso.

Ayes: Christine Gallegos, Arlene Alarcon, Marc Salazar, Rosa Estrada, Kimberly Cook-McDaniel, Bill Schlesinger and Sergio Vasquez.

Nays: None

7. Discussion and action on recommendation to investigate incidents as scope of work for the Fair Housing Task Force and existence of unfair housing practices

Committee members discussed Fair Housing budget and staffing resources available in other cities and El Paso, TX. Sergio Vasquez provided further information on federal grants available to cities and non-profits to address Fair Housing issues. Committee members discussed required technical expertise, budget based on type of enforcement, and available resources as well as the possibility to establish a partnership with a local entity to expand Fair Housing efforts.

Motion made by Bill Schlesinger and seconded by Marc Salazar to request that City Council amends the Fair Housing Ordinance to include on the scope of work of the Fair Housing Task Force the capacity to investigate the existence and unfair housing practices in the City of El Paso.

Ayes: Christine Gallegos, Arlene Alarcon, Marc Salazar, Rosa Estrada, Kimberly Cook-McDaniel, Bill Schlesinger and Sergio Vasquez.

Nays: None

8. Discussion and approval of the next meeting date

Committee members agreed to meet on August 8, 2017 at 4 pm and on September 12, 2017 at 4 pm.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 4:49 pm.

Prepared by: Sandra Pellegrini