

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**April 4, 2012**

Present: Commissioners David Harburg, Esther Griffin, Karen Redington, Sheri Struk, Jamila Kisses, Rob Solomon, Mariam Ali, Mackenzie DeLong, Alternate Commissioners Dan Vi Nguyen, Alicia Polk, Juanita Villarreal and Staff Liaison Bob Crocker.

Absent: Commissioner Alton Harvey

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm. Minutes of the March 7, 2012, meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. Commissioner Kisses moved to approve and Commissioner Harburg seconded. Passed.

Communications from the City Staff Liaison: Bob Crocker presented the commissioners with name tags and business cards. The purpose of the name tag would be to use as an identifier for any HRAC member who was attending public meetings or events.

Communications from the City Council Liaison Cathy Stanton:

- Councilor Stanton reported that all requests for appointments to the Human Rights Advisory Commission were approved
- Briefly discussed that the City purchased the Coldwell Banker building at the Round and there will be meetings open to the public coming up for citizens to express their ideas for how the building should be utilized
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the start of Department Budget hearings for upcoming fiscal year
- Living Greener event at Library on April 14 from 9:00am to 1:00pm
- Public Hearing on Fair Housing Plan on Thursday, April 5 at Beaverton City Library at 2:00pm

Hearings:

Pavel Goberman presented an instance of alleged discrimination against him by Mayor Doyle and the City from a traffic violation he received in 2009 for running a red light. Mr. Goberman presented the commission with a letter outlining his complaint. The commission explained that this matter will be looked into and a letter will be sent to him explaining our findings.

Guests:

Bill Blair, who was one of the original members of the Human Rights Advisory Commission, asked the commission for ideas on what to do regarding a case his co-worker is involved with. The individual Bill spoke about has been a Beaverton resident for more than eight years and is a legal resident alien of the United States. His business is shipping products from Oregon to China. In August 2011 the Chinese government came to his office in Shanghai and Blair's co-worker was detained, as well as the Office Manager and another worker. The government claimed the business was not paying the proper amount for duties and/or taxes. He has been detained in the Chinese jail, with no charges against him, since August 2011 and has had little contact with any outside agencies to help him get out of China. His wife and child still reside in Beaverton. The commission made some preliminary suggestions and asked Bill to type this out and the commission will review it at the next monthly meeting.

The commission discussed current movement in regards to Commissioners. City Council has approved the proposals to move Alternate Commissioner Struk to a full Commissioner and adding Juanita Villarreal and Alicia Polk as Alternate Commissioners.

Project updates:

Commissioner Griffin discussed the Creative Expression Contest (CEC) and the commissioners voted for this year's winners. The contest was open to students who are Beaverton residents or in the Beaverton School District. First place winners in each division (Elementary School, Middle School and High School) are awarded a certificate and a gift card to Powell's for \$50; two runner-ups in each division are selected and presented with a certificate and a \$25 gift card to Powell's. The winners will be publicly announced at the May 8 City Council meeting.

Elementary School:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Rishika Sikka, "I love Rosa Parks"

Runner-up: Joshua Miller, "One Child"

Runner-up: Lily Potter, "Colors of the City"

Middle School:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Belinda Fang, "The Lion, the Snowman and the New One"

Runner-up: Kyla D'Sa, "The Corner" movie

Runner-up: Luis Flores, Mayra Garcia, and Abraham Medina Huesca, "Respect"

High School:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Halal Entertainment (a group of 8 students), Human Rights video

Runner-up: Jackie Salzinger, "Citizens of the World"

Runner-up: Yamini Naidu, "From Tahrir Square to Tiananmen Square: Leveraging New Media Tools to Advance Human Rights"

No updates on the Diversity Taskforce.

International Celebration: Commissioner Redington reported the celebration is scheduled for Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. The commission inquired about having a table at the Fair. This will be discussed at the May meeting.

Miscellaneous Business:

Alternate Commissioner Nguyen briefly talked about the commission's new project to reach out to Beaverton residents from diverse minority communities. The goal is to get input from the different cultures, and what the HRAC could do to be of service. Commissioner Nguyen said she has already talked with immigrants from the Philippines and Mexico, both who are committed to participate. She plans to do more outreach at upcoming CIO Trainings and other networks.

Commissioner Kisses discussed the "Mayor's Freedom to Marry" petition where Mayors from across the country are signing petitions in support of the freedom of same-sex couples to marry. There was not enough time to discuss this, so it will be brought up at the next monthly meeting. The motion to bring back for discussion was put forth by Commissioner Kisses and seconded by Commissioner Redington. Motion passed.

Commissioner Redington asked, for an upcoming meeting, for the commission to discuss Beaverton residents being racially profiled. This will occur at the May meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Struk, seconded by Commissioner Redington. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

