

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

June 6, 2012

Present: Commissioners David Harburg, Alton Harvey, Sr., Esther Griffin, Sheri Struk, Jamila Kisses, Rob Solomon, Karen Redington, Mariam Ali, Alternate Commissioners Dan Vi Nguyen, Juanita Villarreal, City Council Liaison Cathy Stanton and City Staff Liaisons Nancy Bates and Bob Crocker.

Absent: Commissioner Mackenzie DeLong and Alternate Commissioner Alicia Polk

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm. Minutes of the May 2, 2012, meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. Commissioner Redington moved to approve and Commissioner Harvey seconded. Passed.

Communications from the City Staff Liaison: Bob Crocker asked the commission what their interest level was in supporting (and bringing back) the Unity Walk event. The commission felt it would be a worthwhile cause and fit in line with the commission's mission. Councilor Stanton gave a brief overview of the event and was excited about the potential of bringing the event back. Commissioner Redington volunteered to represent the HRAC in any upcoming planning meetings; Commissioner Struk also said she might be able to help.

Communications from the City Council Liaison Cathy Stanton: Councilor Stanton reported that the City Council decided to hire a full time Cultural Liaison (Cultural Inclusion Program Coordinator) for the city, on a one year term beginning in August 2012.

Guests: None

Hearings: None

Project updates:

Commissioner Griffin briefly discussed the Creative Expression Contest (CEC) reception and awards ceremony on May 8 at 6:00 pm at Beaverton City Hall. She reported that it was well attended and covered by both the Oregonian and Valley Times.

Commissioner Redington briefly talked about the Diversity Taskforce. She reported that as of July 1, Erin Moran will no longer head up the Diversity Taskforce. On August 1, the City will be hiring a full time employee (Cultural Inclusion Coordinator) and will be tasked with working with employees and Beaverton residents to educate them on diversity. Councilor Stanton mentioned the essential functions of this new position were outlined in the City Council Agenda packet from June 5, 2012.

Alternate Commissioner Nguyen talked about the Human Rights representative project. She said she has connected with people from CIO and those individuals are interested in future Beaverton Human Rights Advisory Commission activities. The process is still ongoing and she will begin to put together a list of individuals she is able to reach out to and are willing to support the HRAC representative's project.

Commissioner Ali briefly discussed IRCO, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, and what they do for the immigrant population in the area. In July, Crystal Ashton will attend the monthly Beaverton Human Rights Advisory Commission meeting to discuss, in detail, IRCO and how the commission might be able to partner with them. Commissioner Ali Mariam also discussed upcoming workshops IRCO is offering. The trainings are being conducted, in conjunction with IRCO, is being presented by Refugee and Immigrant Empowerment Program. The first series of trainings this summer will be June 15 and June

22 3:00 to 6:00 pm at the Beaverton Community Center and will focus on resolving conflicts and creating a greater peace in families by teaching communication skills.

Cultural Conversation Forum

The Commission then opened its Cultural Communications forum. Tonight's focus was concerning Beaverton's Latino population, and the forum was held in Spanish with translation for English speakers. Discussion focused on the Secure Communities act – how it is supposed to work and some of the challenges that many of the folks attending had experienced, Police (city and county) were represented and discussion coordinated by Alternate Commissioner Juanita Villarreal and Commission Chair Rob Solomon, along with expertise from the community. There were about thirty (in addition to the Commission) in attendance.

Miscellaneous Business:

Rob mentioned there will be a Faith Forum on Sunday, June 10,

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Harburg, seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

