

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

December 1, 2010

Present: Commissioners Alton Harvey, Daniel Brown, David Harburg, Esther Griffin, John Cornelius, Maria Moreno, Rob Solomon, and Staff Liaison Nancy Bates

Absent: Alternate Commissioners Blair Thomas, Heminder Singh and Jamila Kisses

Guest(s): Karen Redington Fernandes

Minutes of the November 2 meeting were approved with some spelling corrections

Communications with City Liaison: Discussion and action item regarding thank you notes for speakers.

No hearings

Committee Reports

Outreach:

Chair Solomon reported that the Washington County Council on Human Rights offered a display on Human Rights from the Oregon Area Jewish Committee. It will be displayed at City Hall for two weeks and set up during the week the human rights proclamation will be read at the City Council meeting on December 7.

Chair Solomon reported that he met with the Oregonian reporter, Dominique Fong, and gave her some background about the Human Rights Advisory Commission. He indicated that she is very interested in social justice.

Diversity Award:

The Commission discussed the fact that there was only one nomination for a non-profit for the Diversity Award, even after all the marketing that was done both via posters and at NAC meetings. The feeling was that there is still limited visibility of the HRAC and its purpose.

Village Baptist Church (VBC) was nominated by Karen Fernandes for their work in pursuing a congregation that reflects the racial, ethnic and multigenerational population of Beaverton. The decision was to give the award to VBC and a motion carried 5 to 1 with 1 abstention. The award to VBC will be given at the City Council meeting on January 4th.

There was a discussion regarding the future of the award. Previous years, the Commission did significant outreach via letters and posters, but with limited results. A suggestion was made to change the focus and the name of the award to the Human Rights Award. It was moved and seconded and passed unanimously. There will be a separate meeting in January which will include a brainstorming session for ideas for the new focus.

No new report on Creative Expression Contest.

Report on obtaining speakers for the HRAC meetings:

The ACLU has been contacted and the Commission is waiting for a response regarding a speaker on bullying. Commissioner Griffin will follow up one more time. Another idea: Inviting the head of the local Mosque. There was a suggestion that this be put on the January agenda.

Other Business:

There was a discussion regarding the HRAC's role in responding to the recent event surrounding a Somali student from Beaverton and Pioneer Square Tree Lighting. The Commission will advise the Mayor and City Council that they would like to see the City reach out to the Somali community and educate the public in general with a response to the recent incident. There was some disagreement regarding the Commission responding to certain events and not others. Another suggestion was on behalf of HRAC, a generic statement that the HRAC offer their thoughts to all families and residents to enjoy and celebrate holidays and respect others. There is a concern that statements must point to specific areas or incidences that are of interest to the community in order to be heard. A motion was made to ask the Mayor and City Council to reach out to the Somali Community publicly to show support and continued acceptance as part of the Beaverton community. The motion passed 6 to 1.

The guest speaker for the evening was Kazi Huque on the topic of Social Business. Social Business is a business model to empower the impoverished to help themselves. The key concept: A hand up instead of a hand out. Mr. Huque works as a financial controller for Intel who's primary responsibility has evolved to function as CEO for Intel Grameen Bank. Mr. Huque explained the core concepts of Social Business stressing that investment is made primarily to benefit a community with a targeted goal. Investors seek to recoup their investment only, investors reinvest any profit. The goals include assisting a sustaining business in the community that fosters independence. As an effort to promote greater fiscal equality, Mr. Huque clearly sees the social business concept as an effort to promote human rights through greater equity among the peoples of the world.

At the end of the meeting, Commissioner Griffin made an announcement about a Fundraiser at Southridge High School on Friday, December 10 from 5:30 to 7:30. The event is an art sale and auction to raise money for GSA projects.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.