

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

**August 1, 2012**

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

Absent: Commissioner Alton Harvey, Sr., Mariam Ali, Alternate Commissioner Dan Vi Nguyen and City Council Liaison Cathy Stanton

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm. Minutes of the July 11, 2012, meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. Commissioner Struk moved to approve and Commissioner DeLong seconded. Passed.

Communications from the City Staff Liaison: Bob Crocker asked if a member of the commission would be willing to store the HRAC's new display board. Commissioner Solomon said he would be willing to store it.

Communications from the City Council Liaison Cathy Stanton: Not in attendance.

Guests: Mr. David Eder from the City of Beaverton's City Attorney's Office, Melanie Clark and Kaylee Young

Hearings: Ms. Clark came to present abusive incidents she alleged occurred while attending meetings at the Westside Service Center. Ms. Clark says she has had many verbally abusive comments directed towards her since she announced at a meeting she was a lesbian. The commission made the recommendation that Ms. Clark to send a formal letter to the Board of Westside Service Center explaining her concerns and giving the Board of Directors a deadline to respond her. Ms. Young, an acquaintance to Ms. Clark and a former attendee at Westside Service Center, was also part of the hearing. Ms. Young described how she was confronted during a meeting by attendees of the Westside Service Center because she was transgender; to the point she claims she was threatened with a knife. Ms. Young said she planned on contacting the police regarding this incident.

Went into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation.

Came out of Executive Session. Commission gave recommendations to Ms. Clark and Ms. Young.

Project updates:

Commissioner Griffin and Commissioner Solomon briefly talked about the Human Rights Representative project because Commissioner Nguyen was absent. Both of them presented the application that had been designed by Commissioner Nguyen and edited by Commissioner Griffin. The application was reviewed by the commission and one edit was made to make the wording less restrictive. Commissioner Struk moved to accept the application with the change of adding "underserved populations"; Commissioner Harburg seconded. Passed unanimously.

Commissioner Redington discussed the potential Cultural Conversation speakers for September— Cultural Conversation on the Persian community. While several people have been invited to participate and are considering it, was confirmed that the owner of Baba Fresh would be one of the guest speakers.

A press release will be sent out for this event. Commissioner Redington moved to spend up to \$40 on food from Baba Fresh for the September meeting. Commissioner Villarreal seconded. Passed.

Commissioner Redington briefly talked about the Diversity Taskforce. She reported that the Cultural Inclusion Liaison application period has closed and potential interviewees are submitting supplemental questions; interviews will take place August 20. It is projected a job offer will be made in early September and the job is based on a one year term.

Commissioner Redington also reported to the commission that the Beaverton International Celebration, which was July 28<sup>th</sup> at THRPD; was very well attended. It was reported there were more diverse exhibits/entertainment this year than the prior year.

Commissioners Polk and Harburg reported back to the commission that the tabling at the last two Picnic in the Park events went very well. Tabling at the City events gives the commission the opportunity to promote upcoming events and give Beaverton citizens a sense of what the HRAC does. It was suggested for the next time the HRAC does tabling at big events, there is some sort of give-away item for people to take. One suggestion was stickers with the HRAC logo on them. Bob will check the prices and report back to the commission.

Commissioner Griffin reported that Powell's Books on Cedar Hills Blvd. is allowing the commission to put up some of the Creative Expression Contest (CEC) entries to advertise the contest. There will be flyers there that are a 'heads up' that the contest will start at the end of January. Commissioner Redington also suggested the commission add a SKU code on the flyer, which would allow citizens with smartphones to get more information from the HRAC's website.

The commission discussed the annual budget. There is one outstanding item from last fiscal year the commission is still waiting to pay-invoice has not been submitted by vendor.

#### Miscellaneous Business:

Commissioner Solomon announced he is in talks with the state advocacy commissions to further develop HRAC's relationship with them. One area currently under discussion is the possibility of having Law Student or PhD interns work with HRAC. Commissioners were encouraged to consider what projects (if any) we might wish to consider with such an opportunity.

Commissioner Solomon reported that he has not heard back from the Mayor regarding the 'Freedom to Marry' petition. He'll continue to reach out to the Mayor.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kisses, seconded by Commissioner Struk. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.