

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
May 4, 2010**

Present: Commissioners Alton Harvey, David Harburg, Daniel Brown, Esther Griffin, Judith Auslander, Maria Moreno, Rob Solomon, and Staff Liaison Nancy Bates and Council Liaison Catherine Arnold

Excused: John Cornelius

Guests: Nominees for Commission: Greg Danielson, Jamila Kisses, Blair Thomas; Taj Suleyman, liaison from the Center for Intercultural Organizing working with the City of Beaverton and the Mayor's Diversity Task Force.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

The minutes of the April 6, 2010, meeting were approved with one correction.

Communication from Staff/Council Liaison

Discussion regarding the City Council's possible change to Wednesday nights (a public hearing is scheduled for the June 7 City Council meeting). Rooms have been tentatively scheduled in anticipation of that change and the HRAC will then move their meeting time to the first Wednesday of the month in September.

CD's of the HRAC's PowerPoint presentation were distributed to members for use in community presentations.

No Hearings

Project Updates

**Subcommittee Reports:**

Outreach:

June 15 is the Boards and Commissioners night, co-hosted by BHRAC and the Mayor's Diversity Task Force. Each Board or Commission has a spokesperson who will talk about what the Board or Commission does and why. At 6:50PM, there will be a "get acquainted time." Location and time: 6PM, City Council Chambers and First Floor Conference Room.

Commissioners were given statistics handouts from the Bureau of Labor and Industries regarding civil rights complaints. These will be sent on a monthly basis from now on.

Washington County Council on Human Rights (WCCHR) sent a memo to the Sheriff regarding the prohibitions against sealed letters as a violation of human rights. The Sheriff has agreed to meet with the WCHRAC. The meeting will be held in the jail and attendees will be served dinner.

In November at Pacific University, the WCCHR will sponsor a presentation on Native American human rights. More information will be provided later.

The subcommittee will meet and refresh the handout on "Cultural Conversations."

September 19, noon to 4PM: Latino soccer event and educational fair at the main complex of THPRD. This is not a sponsored HRAC event, but all Commissioners are welcome to attend.

#### Creative Expression Contest:

The awards will be presented at the May 17 City Council meeting. A 6PM reception will precede the Council meeting and all entries will be on display. The awards will be presented shortly after the regular 6:30 meeting begins.

The subcommittee would like to have the "Peace Pole" at the reception.

Commissioners are invited to attend.

#### Diversity:

A mock up of a poster for the Diversity Award was passed around. It represents countries, languages and cultures. These will be used instead of the hundreds of letters and brochures that are traditionally sent out and which have produced little response. These posters will be put in public places, including the schools.

Commissioners requested that the subcommittee make sure that the flags represent current countries and that no "offensive" flags, e.g., that represent communism, be included.

The subcommittee also said they will make sure press releases get out earlier than previous years.

#### Miscellaneous/New Business:

1. The Commission took time to have open discussion about the Oregonian article, "Racial Bias in the Housing Market." The Commission would like to have Andrea Lindberg, City of Beaverton Economic Development Project Coordinator, come to a meeting to talk about what the City is doing about housing issues.
2. The Commissioners were asked for input into the language and content of the Visioning process. City Council Liaison, Catherine Arnold, went over the history of the visioning process and led a discussion about the parts of the visioning document that has language that relates to human and civil rights. The Commission discussed what should be included and what is missing. They suggested verbiage like, "embraces all citizens," "welcoming"; and the question was asked how inclusive should the list be? Councilor Arnold will get sections updated with the commissioners input.
3. In response to the high turnover on the Commission, the topic of "commissioner vacancies" was discussed; and each commissioner was asked, "What were your expectations when you accepted the appointment, and what has your experience been since you joined." Several commissioners shared their feelings about why people might be leaving their term early or why they cannot participate more.

Chair Solomon spoke to the purpose of the Commission and history of the committee, why the Commission does not have hearings; what the Commission can do; expressed it in terms of it being a way to promote change in the community.

Taj Suleyman gave some history of himself and his position with the Center for Intercultural Organizing and the City of Beaverton. It is his job as a facilitator to go and reach out to the communities.

Councilor Arnold commented on the structure that has been in place since 1993 and challenged the Commission in terms of what they can do to connect with the community.— what are the opportunities to connect, e.g., the Monthly Landlord/Tenant Forum.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

Each Commissioner should bring 2-3 things (ideas, possible projects, etc)...

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.