

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

September 5, 2012

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

Absent: Commissioner Mackenzie DeLong and City Council Liaison Cathy Stanton

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm. Minutes of the August 1, 2012, meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. Commissioner Kisses moved to approve and Commissioner Struk seconded. Passed.

Communications from the City Staff Liaison: None.

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

Guests: Sepidah Rabii, Massoud Saberian and Bahram (Barry) Bahmanyar

Project updates:

Commission discussed potential future Cultural Conversation guests. Suggestions included members of the Vietnamese, Cambodian, Southeast Asian communities, as well as elderly and disabled citizens in Beaverton. Commissioner Solomon will look into organizing a November Cultural Conversation with either Beaverton's Citizens with Disabilities Advisory Committee or the Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Redington briefly talked about the Diversity Taskforce. She reported that the Cultural Inclusion Liaison interviews have been completed and a second round of interviews are scheduled for September 7. Commissioner Redington also discussed the City's Photovoice project that has community members in the Central Beaverton area taking pictures of areas needing improvements. The City is hoping for approximately 30 adult volunteers for this project.

Commissioner Nguyen announced that she was pleased the Commission had approved the application to use for registering folks for the the Human Rights Representative program. She will be inviting appropriate candidates to apply.

The Commissioners briefly discussed the Human Rights Award. Commissioner Griffin said that there is always the possibility of all three categories having winners(Business, Non-profit and Individual); she reminded the commission to seek nominations from all categories. Commissioner Solomon will work with the City's Public Information Manager to get a press release finalized and sent out.

Cultural Conversation: Persian Community

Sepidah Rabii, Massoud Saberian and Bahram (Barry) Bahmanyar discussed how they came to Beaverton and how welcomed they felt thirty years ago and now. The group also talked about adjustments they had to make getting used to the environment, compared to their home country. Each person also touched briefly on any "cultural shock" or discrimination they may have had or are encountering within the City of Beaverton.

Miscellaneous Business:

Commissioner Solomon discussed the Beaverton City Library's grant application for "Bridging Cultural Book Shelves". The program is directed to adding books and presentations to the Beaverton City Library relating directly to Muslim community. The motion to endorse this grant was put forth by Commissioner Ali and seconded by Commissioner Redington. Commissioner Solomon moved for a vote. Passed unanimously, with Commission requesting some books be included for children.

Commissioner Redington briefly discussed a local individual who is on a "no fly" list. Currently, Senator Wyden is looking into the issue and is expected to contact the family with his findings. Commissioner Redington will reach out to the family and invite them to the October monthly meeting.

Commissioner Kisses presented a project idea to the commission as a way to reach out to Beaverton residents. The program revolved around building community through writing. The early stages of the planning process have been drafted and were presented to the Commission; Commissioner Kisses moved for endorsement. Commissioner Ali seconded. Passed unanimously.

Commissioner Alton Harvey, Sr., prior to the meeting, notified the Chair that he is resigning from the Commission effective immediately. The City will prepare the proper paperwork to move Alternate Commissioner Nguyen to a full Commissioner.

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 Redington, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

