

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
April 6, 2010**

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

Excused: John Cornelius

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The minutes of the March 2, 2010 meeting minutes were approved as written.

Communication from Staff/Council Liaison

No communications from the Staff or Council Liaison.

No Hearings

Guest Speaker(s)

Laura Slocomb, Oregon Food Bank and Lisa Brown, Community Action Network were introduced by Commissioner Auslander.

Ms. Brown explained that the Community Action Network provides housing and other services to Washington County residents. From 2000-2008 poverty rate grew 3 times faster than population. 1 out of 4 is considered low income and 1 out of 10 is considered living in poverty. The majority of the people seeking help are the “working poor” – those with minimum wage jobs who work full-time and are still not making ends meet, often for the first time. These are the people who are often “invisible” to the rest of us

Ms. Slocomb advised that food is the best barometer of discretionary spending. There has been a continuous increase the last few years of demand for food boxes and the demand for meals through community resources has skyrocketed. The Oregon Food Bank benefits more from cash donations as they are able to buy in bulk what is most needed and no cost for warehousing the donated foods.

Project Updates

**Subcommittee Reports:**

Outreach:

The Mayor Doyle’s Diversity Task Force has hired Taj Suleyman from the Center for Intercultural Organizing to work part time with them in the community. He will be attending the HRAC meetings starting next month.

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, the HRAC will be co-hosting an event with the Mayor’s Diversity Task Force and the purpose of this event is both social and educational. Commissions will share information about their activities.

### Diversity:

Commissioner Moreno and Commissioner Harvey presented their vision of designing a poster for the diversity award.

### Creative Expression Contest:

Voting of the Creative Expression Contest took place and the following were selected as the winner or runner up: Elementary School - "We Dream of a World" (winner), "A Great Soul" (runner up) and "Rosa Parks/Civil Rights Movement" (runner up). Middle School – "Importance of Acceptance" (winner), "Support Love" (runner up) and "Who We Were . . .Who We Are (runner up). High School – "Hope for Tomorrow" (winner), "The Way I Was Meant To Be" (runner up) and "Finally . . .Acceptance" (runner up).

Notification letters will be sent to the winners and runners up and thank you letters will go out to the other participants. The letters will likely be sent out by April 19<sup>th</sup>.

The reception and awards ceremony will likely take place on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Commission Griffin will be responsible for picking up the gift certificates from Powell's and the Staff Liaison will request a purchase order once the receipt is received.

### Miscellaneous/New Business:

Chair Solomon advised that they need an agenda item for the next meeting to look at the subject of information in the Visioning documents. He also encouraged the commissioners to respond online to the visioning process request.

Chair Solomon is requesting to fill two alternate commissioners for the openings and for one for the commissioner vacancy. He hopes to have these new commissioners in place by the next meeting. He will be discussing this with the Staff Liaison.

Chair Solomon would like further research done in regards to changing the meeting to Wednesdays. He asked the Staff Liaison to look into other meeting room options and times.

The chair requested that staff seek to provide each Commissioner with a CD copy of the BHRAC power point presentation as soon as possible.

Discussion on the Outreach subcommittee's plan to engage in "Cultural Conversations", outlined at the March meeting was deferred to the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.