

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
March 2, 2010**

Present: Commissioners Alton Harvey, David Harburg, Daniel Brown, Debra Healy, Esther Griffin, John Cornelius, Judith Auslander, Maria Moreno, Rob Solomon, and Alternate Commissioner Ariel Schultz, Staff Liaison Nancy Bates and Council Liaison Catherine Arnold

Visitors: Councilors Betty Bode and Marc San Soucie; PSU Professor Tag Khuri

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Roll call and introduction of new and current Commissioners made.

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

Communication from Staff/Council Liaison

Councilor Arnold reiterated that the City Council is changing the City Council meetings to Tuesday nights as of July and reminded the commission to decide in the next few months if they want to change their meeting night so that it does not conflict with City Council. The commission discussed possibilities and chose the first Wednesday of the month as the best choice. Staff Liaison will check out room availability and let the Commission know in a week what can be arranged.

Councilor Arnold also recommended a future discussion item be about the Visioning Advisory Committee. The VAC 's role is to start condensing the material gathered last year from citizens down to a foundation for a plan. There are five goals, some which were shared with the HRAC. The VAC is asking for help from the HRAC with the language for the objectives that reflect subjects about diversity and acceptance. Councilor Arnold will send the VAC visioning materials to all commissioners. The next VAC meeting is in June of 2010.

Staff Liaison was asked to follow up to make sure all letters were sent out to those Diversity Award nominees that were not chosen in particular the Beaverton Arts Commission.

No Hearings

Guest Speaker

Erin Hickey, Events Planner for the City of Beaverton, joined the meeting to talk about the development of the "Mayor's Diversity Task Force" that will work with people of color and the immigrant and refugee communities. Ms. Hickey reported that the task force has been pulled together and has met four times. The goals are being set for the next three years, but the mission and objectives have not yet been formed. They are looking for members from the City communities to join the task force.

The goal is to develop relationships and includes helping the Human Rights Advisory Commission with the Diversity Award communication and participation. They are working with the Center for Intercultural Organizing (CIO), which got a grant to hire a person to work with the communities. The new Liaison will collect data, which the HRAC and the City hope to be able to use. The CIO is based in Portland and has a purpose of civic and cultural training and education

for minority communities. The Liaison will come to the City of Beaverton one day a week. The vision is to reach out to communities and provide civic and cultural education.

Project Updates

Subcommittee Reports:

Outreach:

Information from Chair Solomon: Recommended reading: Moral Relativism, resource book recommended by Dr. Rachel Hardesty.

Chair Solomon reported that he was approached to have somebody from HRAC work with the Inter-Religious Action Network (IAN) Washington County Human Rights Advisory Commission. Commissioner Auslander will be the HRAC-IAN liaison for the "Walk For Unity". A motion was made and passed to that effect. The representative will attend meetings and summarize minutes of the meetings.

As a follow up to Labor Commissioner Avakian's presentation, Chair Solomon reported that Bob Estabrook committed to getting access to data for the HRAC, per the Commissioners request to the Labor Commissioner. Commissioner Griffin would like someone to recheck the data from BOLI regarding Beaverton and Washington County to establish if the trend for civil rights complaints is getting better or worse.

For the April meeting, the speakers will be Laura Slocomb from the Oregon Food Bank and Lisa Brown from Community Action. The topic will be on hunger and poverty, which crosses all groups, and housing—"The Hidden Faces of Hunger and Poverty in Beaverton." Beaverton's reality is there is a large demand for food and housing in our community.

Commissioner Auslander contributed an example of a citizen having difficulty getting help with housing and other assistance. Commissioner Harvey added that it is important to look at the whole person, not one aspect, e.g., lack of food or lack of housing.

A new project for the Outreach Subcommittee: Cultural Conversations. This effort should dovetail with the Mayor's Diversity Summit with a purpose to get people talking. More discussion about this will be brought up in future meetings.

Diversity:

Commissioner Moreno reported that the subcommittee met on Saturday, February 27, with the following efforts: Continue the website; create posters to advertise criteria for the award; find ways to reach groups; put posters in schools; partner with the Chamber of Commerce and the NAC's and enlist their memberships; create Public Service Announcements. These efforts would be in lieu of the 1600-plus letters that are mailed out yearly to businesses and non-profits that do not seem to yield any responses. The subcommittee's next meeting will look at a more detailed framework of what can be done to accomplish some new ideas. Alt. Commissioner Shultz agreed to join the subcommittee and Commissioner Auslander will come off the subcommittee.

Creative Expression Contest:

Commissioner Griffin summarized the contest history for new commissioners—i.e., history, publicity—and offered some reasons why the numbers go up and down each year. In 2008, the Commissioner received fewer than 20; in 2009, 100 were received; and in 2010, there are 19 entries. The commissioners looked at all artwork and films of this year's entries, and were each given a set of all written entries and photocopies of all artwork. Commissioners were asked to personally choose a winner and two runners-up, ranked 1, 2, and 3, from each grade level

(elementary, middle, high school) and bring those choices with them to April HRAC meeting where we will vote on them. (Bring entire packet to meeting for discussion purposes.)

Miscellaneous/New Business:

Chair Solomon announced that he will remain neutral regarding elections and not endorse any candidates.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.