

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

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

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 January 5, 2010 meeting minutes were approved as amended.

Communication from Staff Liaison

Councilor Arnold mentioned that the City Council is considering changing the City Council meetings to Tuesday night as of July and that the commission should decide in the next few months if they want to change their meeting night so that it does not conflict with City Council.

No Hearings

Project Updates

Subcommittee Reports:

Diversity: Commissioner Harvey reported that the current process for communicating with the community is ineffective. The subcommittee was asked to look at everything the Commission has done to make sure it is more effective. The goal for the subcommittee is to get greater input from the community. Recommendation: A theme—what does it “taste” like and coordinate it around some kind of festival—cultural, ethnic, bring people together with the concept of getting to know each other through food, dress, music, and religion. The thought is for the subcommittee to bring ideas back to the HRAC to discuss. Chair Solomon questioned how the concept fits with the award and asked people to bring back ideas and to get new ideas. He also suggested waiting until the group meets with Erin Hickey, the City’s events planner, who is involved in a prospective Diversity Summit.

Creative Expression Contest:

Commissioner Griffin passed out the flyer and the entry form for the Contest and referred people to the website. The flyer went out to schools and to Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District for posting. The flyers were also given out at the MLK event in January. The Contest is one week shorter this year. The press release went out to the papers.

Outreach:

April speaker: Commissioner Brown has contacted Speakers from the Oregon Food Bank and Community Action to discuss Human Rights and Poverty, for April. Details at the next HRAC meeting.

A question was suggested for discussion: How does poverty begin?

The next meeting of the Outreach Subcommittee will be February 10.

THPRD Update: Nike Latino Event moved to September to accommodate the events that are already scheduled. It is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 19.

MLK Update: Partnership was excellent and everything went off very well; several commissioners attended.

Miscellaneous/New Business:

Agenda items for March will include Erin Hickey, Events Planner for the City, who is responsible for the Diversity Summit. Commissioner Brown acknowledged the Council for the Boards and Commissioners dinner that all who attended felt was wonderful this year. Chair Solomon explained the purpose of the dinner, and then he said it was “by far the best.”

The business part of the meeting finished at 8:08 p.m. and Commissioner Brad Avakian spoke to the group and the public visitors for about 30 minutes and then sat down and had a discussion with just the Human Rights Advisory Committee. In attendance were the parents of Councilor Arnold, City Councilor Betty Bode, Mr. Robert Thornhill and Mr. Jason Yurgel.