

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
November 3, 2009**

Present: Commissioners Alton Harvey, Blair Thomas, Daniel Brown, David Harburg, Debra Healy, Esther Griffin, Rob Solomon and Staff Liaison Nancy Bates  
Excused: Commissioner Judith Auslander and Alternate Commissioner John Cornelius

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

The minutes of the October 6, 2009, meeting minutes were approved as written.

Communication from Staff Liaison

Staff Liaison reported that the Mayor has chosen to change the Commissioner selection process starting in 2010. Instead of a current Commission or Board member just indicating they want to continue another term, the member will need to reapply and compete with others who will apply for positions coming open. Staff Liaison was asked to send out e-mails to the Commissioners when their term will expire.

The by-law amendment regarding alternates being able to vote is still pending action.

No Hearings

Project Updates

**Subcommittee Reports:**

Diversity Award: Commissioner Thomas reported that with the help of Amy Miner, City Public Information Manager, the press release is updated. In the next two to three weeks, expect applications. In November they will follow up with a small-sample poll asking people for feedback about the process—what they liked and what they did not, how effective was the marketing, does anyone care, what could be done differently to recognize diversity in the community. Commissioner Thomas described the call process as having 3 to 4 basic questions and calling via phone. The question was asked if there is a way to get advertising via TVTC. Commissioner Brown will check with Amy Miner regarding a public service announcement.

Creative Expression Contest: Commissioner Griffin presented a copy of the flyer that was sent to Amy Miner, who is supposed to send it to teachers through BSD contact Maureen Wheeler. The expectation is that teachers will incorporate this project into their curriculum with enough notice. A bonus would be if they distribute it to their students directly. The deadline for the contest had to be moved up by one week due to the HRAC meeting now being held on the first Tuesday vs. the second Tuesday of each month. As the time for the contest gets closer, the committee will update the website and distribute hard copies of the contest flyer and entry form, which will also be available on line. As there is every year, we must go through an approval process with the Community Involvement Committee of the School District. An ad will be placed in "Your City" newsletter, the December-January-February issue. A question came up regarding the criteria for judging entries that led to an explanation that the judging by each Commissioner is subjective, but based on the criteria discussed in the application.

Outreach: Three outreach efforts were discussed:

- 1) THPRD received a grant to work with Latino/a youth in the area of soccer. They have asked community representatives to brainstorm about this subject. Commissioner Griffin will attend at THPRD on Tuesday, November 10.
- 2) Washington County Human Rights Council had applied for a Kaiser grant but was unsuccessful. They are sponsoring "listening forums" for high schoolers. They also conducted a poster contest with the theme "Human Rights: Let It Begin with Me." Commissioner Griffin will be one of the judges for this contest on November 11<sup>th</sup>. On December 7, a representative will attend the City of Beaverton City Council meeting where a proclamation will be read regarding Human Rights.
- 3) MLK Planning: Alt. Commissioner Cornelius will attend the next MLK meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Alaska Airlines donated \$1000 for a peace pole dedication at the event. Winners from the last Creative Expression Contest will participate.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Speakers for future meetings: Commissioner Griffin contacted Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, who has agreed to speak at the February 2 meeting. The topic will be about complaints for discrimination that have been filed with the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), especially comparing Beaverton to Washington County and other counties or cities. A discussion took place regarding whether the meeting should be open to the public and the question asked, is the desired outcome to educate the HRAC or to educate the public. A suggestion was made to bring Mr. Avakian in more than once. Another suggestion was to have a regular meeting at 7PM with the speaker presenting from 7:30 to 8 to the Commission and the public and a Q&A from 8 to 8:30 from the public. A motion was made and seconded for the latter suggestion to invite the speaker for February 2. It passed unanimously.

Suggestions for other speakers: "Relationship between civil rights and poverty." Commissioner Brown has been pursuing resources to address this topic.

Training for Commissioners: Ideas were generated by the members. PSU professor, Rachel Hardesty, is a resource. A discussion regarding training content took place and the decision was to focus on a desired outcome of a workshop, which will be: Basic knowledge of human and civil rights and civil liberties. The chair asked each Commissioner present for a commitment of four hours on a Saturday. Each member indicated their interest and availability. The session will be in 2010. The staff liaison will find a City room for the session when the date is determined. A motion was made and seconded to invite Dr. Hardesty to present a four-hour training in 2010. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Staff Liaison was asked to invite Erin Hickey of the Mayor's Office to a meeting to talk about the Mayor's diversity project.

Commissioner Griffin asked if the annual planning meeting can be moved from the normal February meeting to January due to the speaker at the February meeting. All commissioners agreed.

A visitor to the meeting, Gail Snider, was introduced and recognized. Gail works extensively with the Somali community in Beaverton.

**Miscellaneous Business:**