

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
September 1, 2009**

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

The minutes of the August 4, 2009, meeting minutes were approved.

Communication from Staff Liaison

No communication this month.

No Hearings

Project Updates

Subcommittee Reports:

Creative Expression Contest: The team thought about not doing a fall mailing to save expense. Instead, suggest doing a few copies to each school for a heads up. Ideas discussed e-mailing to teachers or just to teachers who have contributed in the past. Question: What gets a teacher's attention—copies on a table, a poster in the faculty room, an e-mail? A paper mailing in January has given us good results in 2008. We will do an e-mail notification in the fall. The question was asked, How much will the Commission save by not doing a fall mailing? Another idea is to do a monthly e-mail reminder to teachers.

Press release to newspapers in January.

Diversity Award: Blair will edit 2008 brochure. Decision to recommend sending out with a cover letter. Commission will review draft. Additional ideas: notice about the Diversity Award to other City commissions; and each Commissioner takes brochures to favorite coffee shops. Letters must go out in September with the brochures.

New commission members were given an overview of the contest. Discussion took place on what can be done differently to market the award more successfully, e.g., follow up phone calls after letters go out; social networking; media.

Draft of letter must get to Staff Liaison for reproduction. Press release will be created and sent to the Public Information Manager.

Outreach: Washington County Council on Human Rights invited Chair Solomon to attend their meeting of August 19. They also invited him to sit on the Council as an ex-officio member. Chair Solomon indicated he would like it to be an open-seat arrangement so that others on the Commission can attend. The purpose is to facilitate communication. Members are supportive. VAN has agreed to help promote Diversity Award

October meeting: FBI Special Agent will present to HRAC at October meeting at the Library. The public is invited. Subject: "Hate Crimes". Staff Liaison will check on the room set up and check on the availability of the adjacent conference room for overflow. Rob Solomon will get a press

release to the Public Information Manager and get it on the City Events Calendar. The Chamber of Commerce and NAC Chairs will be invited. It will be posted on the City Home Page.

Miscellaneous Business:

Brian Strohl will be asked to update e-mail list and send out. Councilor Catherine Arnold told Chair Solomon that Councilor Bode will be available if we want a substitute Council Liaison.

Esther mentioned an article about BOLI receiving 32,000 complaints of discrimination a year.

Rob asked if everyone received the "White Privilege..." paper in the mail.

The Commissioners are interested in education regarding poverty, human trafficking, racism and other incidences related to human rights. Judith will check with TACS and Debra will check resources regarding this subject, including the City's Dispute Resolution Center. Information about these resources will be communicated via e-mail.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38PM