

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
July 7, 2009**

Present: Commissioners Alton Harvey, Esther Griffin, Rob Solomon, David Harburg, Judith Auslander, Daniel Brown, Christy Scott, New Commissioner Debra Healey, Council Liaison Catherine Arnold and Staff Liaison Nancy Bates
Absent: Commissioner Blair Thomas

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

The minutes of the June 2, 2009, meeting minutes were approved.

Communication from Staff Liaison

No communication this month.

No Hearings

Visitor: Same visitor who attended the June meeting.

Project Updates

Subcommittee Reports:

Diversity Award Subcommittee: No report.

Creative Expression Subcommittee: Discussion regarding "Sharing Our Differences" event for children. Many personal and academic constraints. Commission will wait until 2010 to plan. First event expected to be in 2011. Need to work out with the City regarding facility; timeline to reserve is too short; too late to take a chance on first choice locations, which is the Library Auditorium.

Outreach Subcommittee:

- A. PowerPoint presentation being developed for Commissioners to use to talk about Beaverton HRAC. Sections of the presentation defined:
 - 1. Mission
 - 2. What Do We Do?
 - 3. Grievance Process – Outline
 - 4. Grievance Process – How It Works
 - 5. Creative Expression Contest
 - 6. Diversity Award
 - 7. Education
 - 8. How Can You Become Involved (Beaverton resident)

- B. Commissioner Solomon spoke with Vision Action Network (VAN) and Washington County Human Rights Council. They are very interested in getting a working relationship going with the Beaverton HRAC. Rob was invited to make a presentation to the Washington County Human Rights Council.

Rob met with the Dispute Resolution Center team, Jim Brooks and Mary Lind. They are ready to receive referrals; and are okay with whatever process the HRAC would use to investigate any

issues brought making the referral to the DRC. No reports are required. Approximately 30 percent of their cases every month relate to human or civil rights. This gives the HRAC information about what is going on. The Commissioners have asked for the following information:

- Number of people from each neighborhood
- Number of claims per month
- Nature of claims and status
- Human rights/civil rights related, e.g., ethnicity, discrimination

Motion was made and passed to request the data from the Dispute Resolution Center.

- C. Multicultural Forum. This was the Mayor's effort to get cultures in Beaverton more involved in the City. 50-60 people attended. Commissioner Solomon spoke to the group. The plan is to have a multicultural event on an annual basis. The first event is expected to be in 2010. The Beaverton HRAC is invited to participate in the event. Rob will continue to meet with the group.
- D. Public Service Announcements. Commissioners met with the City's Public Information Manager several weeks ago. Commissioner Brown asked to follow up. Commissioner Solomon is trying to reach the Public Information Manager to make sure Commissioner Brown can make contact with her. Staff Liaison will check in with Public Information Manager to make contact with HRAC.
- E. Esther commented on her trip to Oxnard and talked with people regarding their multicultural event. The people with whom she talked offered to talk with anyone in Beaverton who would like to start something like their event.
- F. A question was raised by Commissioner Healy regarding the purpose of the PowerPoint presentation for outreach activities: Give members a presentation to be able to go out and talk about Beaverton's Human Rights Advisory Commission.
- G. Suggestion was made to offer an award for a parade float for displaying the most diversity, as another way to give the HRAC visibility to the citizens. It was suggested that someone talk with the parade organizers and to plan for next year. Commissioner Auslander will get details and bring them back to the next meeting. An argument against the idea was offered: The HRAC should promote diversity in the community, not reward people for doing something they should be doing on a daily basis. Additionally, the Human Rights Advisory Commission will be involved in the Picnics in the Park and the National Night Out Event. There was further discussion about how and what the Commission can do.

Other Miscellaneous Business:

Next meeting, August 4, is in the second floor conference room at City Hall. The elevator and stairwell doors are locked, and Commissioners and visitors will need to wait for the Staff Liaison to come get them.

Alton will try to firm up the FBI presentation for the October meeting (see June 2009 minutes). It was suggested that the Commission communicate the potential speaker to the rest of the Boards and Commissions.

A question was asked about whether the HRAC has ever done a survey. The question was then asked, What do we want to find out?

Discussions of various situations around the City that appears to be Human Rights issues, e.g., disparate treatment of black families in a Beaverton retail store. No action taken.

Motion to adjourn official business, seconded and passed at 8:17 PM.