

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
June 2, 2009**

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

Call to Order

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

The minutes of the May 5, 2009, meeting minutes were approved.

Communication from Staff Liaison

Staff Liaison reported that the flag on display in the Mayor's office that was the color red with the sickle-and-hammer symbol of the communist Party was immediately removed and archived with other Sister City gifts. Ms. Zhong and Ms. Nie, who were visitors to the May HRAC meeting were notified of the removal and thanked for bringing the potentially offensive article to the attention of the City.

It was also reported that Vision Action Network and the Inter-Religious Action Network of Washington County will not be hosting the Unity Walk this year. Staff has no knowledge of any other group picking up the project.

Staff will help coordinate interviews for a new Commissioner to replace the vacated position that was held by Frank Monfared. Three previous candidates have been contacted and two have responded that they are still interested.

No Hearings

Visitor: A visitor to the meeting introduced himself and indicated he is a professional practicing in the City of Beaverton and very interested in human rights. He came to listen to the meeting and learn what the Commission does.

Project Updates

Subcommittee Reports:

Diversity Award Subcommittee: No report. The question was asked when the subcommittee will start working on the marketing piece for this year's Diversity Award effort. The Chair of the committee was asked to report on the progress at the next meeting.

Creative Expression Subcommittee: Chair, Esther Griffin reported that the event was covered by the Oregonian's Washington County Weekly and the Beaverton Valley Times. The Asian Reporter indicated interest in reporting on two of the winners. Commissioner Griffin provided the publication with the student's work and information; however, the story had not run as of June 2, 2009.

Outreach Subcommittee: Report by Chair Solomon

Chair Solomon passed out a draft of content for a PowerPoint presentation for outreach activities. He asked for input from each commissioner and also passed out drafts from other commissioners. The Commissioners discussed what could be presented to groups as the Commission starts to receive invitations to speak: What does the HRAC do? Is the HRAC only

involved in City of Beaverton human rights issues? This led to a discussion about whether the HRAC should write a letter to the City Council asking for support of Senator Ron Wyden's legislation about the seven Bahai' prisoners in Iran who are scheduled for execution. Further discussion led to the Commissioners discussing the scope of the Human Rights Advisory Commission and their general powers and duties as outlined by the City. How much does the Commission support certain regional, national or international human rights issues that are outside of what happens in the City of Beaverton. A motion was made to recommend to the City Council regarding Senator Wyden's bill, then the motion was withdrawn. The Commission advised that individuals who want to raise awareness of the Council and citizens about international violations of human rights to use the five-minute visitor comment at the City Council meetings.

To wrap up the discussion about the outreach presentation, Chair Solomon promised to collate the drafts brought by two of Commissioners into one PowerPoint presentation draft for the July meeting.

Other Miscellaneous Business:

A request was made by the Metropolitan Family Services to be able to speak to the Human Rights Advisory Commission about foster parenting. The Commission felt that a better audience would be the Beaverton Commission for Citizens Involvement or Community Action. Staff Liaison was asked to respond to the e-mailed request, thanking them for their interest.

An update was given by Commissioner Griffin regarding a potential youth event. Some planning was done that considered the Beaverton Library as a good venue, with a potential time frame of 10a.m. to 3p.m. on a Saturday. The event will be in 2010 or 2011, and planning will be put on hold until the Commission determines the commitment of time.

Commissioner Harvey was asked about the invitation to the FBI to the October meeting. The FBI was unable to respond due to the meeting being so far out on the calendar, and they want to know how much time they will be given because of the amount of content on the subject. The Commission will give between 30 and 60 minutes, including Q&A, and the subject is on hate crimes.

Motion to adjourn official business, seconded and passed at 8:31 PM.