

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Cinco de Mayo, 2009**

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

Absent: Commissioner Christy Scott

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

The minutes of the April 7, 2009, meeting minutes were approved with a minor correction.

Communication from Staff Liaison

As a result of Commissioner Frank Monfared's resignation, Commission Chair Solomon reported that he and Vice Chair Griffin reviewed applications and sent them up to the Mayor.

Hearing

Two visitors, Jian Zhong and Amy Nie, asked to speak with the Commission about a display in the Mayor's Office that they found offensive. Ms. Zhong and Ms. Nie are formerly from China and now residents of the City. They saw a flag on display in the Mayor's office that was the color red with the sickle-and-hammer symbol of the Communist Party. This was a gift provided to the City of Beaverton by one of its sister cities. Ms. Zhong and Ms. Nie gave reasons to the Commission about why Chinese citizens might find this very offensive. Staff Liaison Nancy Bates was asked to find out the source of the item on display and how we could get it removed from the display cabinet. This information will be reported at the next meeting and Ms. Zhong and Ms. Nie were invited back to the June meeting, along with receiving an e-mail from the staff liaison regarding any action taken.

Project Updates

Creative Expression Contest:

- The award ceremony was held the previous evening and those present—Commissioners Solomon, Harburg, Harvey, and Griffin—felt it went very well.
- Commissioner Griffin recapped the evening's events and said she added a summary of the runners-up work during the presentation of awards.
- Action item for DVD: make sure two parts are shown as one and in proper order on the City website. At the meeting they were shown backwards.
- Discussion about parental permission for the DVD; and suggestion was made that next year the application require parental signatures for showing of DVD's.
- Commissioner Griffin indicated that the Beaverton Valley Times did not get the press release; Washington County Weekly did. Staff Liaison will follow up.
- Amy Miner, Public Information Manager, sent out the press releases and sent Commissioner Griffin a copy of the list of media.
- Commissioner Griffin called for more involvement next year of Creative Expression Contest sub-committee members.
- Regarding the booklet: Next year include the student's name, school and grade on each entry. Also do a better job of checking the spelling of students' names.

Subcommittee Reports:

Diversity Award Subcommittee: No report.

Outreach Subcommittee: Report by Chair Solomon

- Commissioner Solomon read memo to Mayor Doyle supporting the Mayor's effort for a multi-cultural summit and offered assistance of the HRAC. No response received yet.
- Discussion about presentation being created for the Commissioners to take out to groups. Objective is a consistent message that any of the Commissioners can deliver. Chair Solomon asked Commissioners to bring their input to the next HRAC meeting. Commission Chair said he would coordinate the material into a PowerPoint presentation, which can include bullets about mission, grievance procedures, and other data that tells what the commission does, can do, and what it wants from the community.
- The Committee is looking at Public Service Announcements (PSA's) to publicize the Human Rights Advisory Commission. Chair Solomon showed an example from the City of Salem website. Chair Solomon met with Amy Miner on this subject to generate publicity ideas.
- Discussion regarding events to draw in people, e.g., Unity Walk, Beaverton Parade. Reminder about considering a major event for the youth of the City.
- Other ideas for mini events: Attending other jurisdictions' HRAC meetings, inviting speakers to the monthly meeting. Commissioner Alton Harvey gave a summary about the multi-cultural advisory board he helped the FBI form. Another suggestion was to invite or have joint meetings with other City Boards and Commissions, e.g., the Citizens with Disabilities Advisory Board.
- Commissioner Harvey volunteered to invite a speaker from the FBI to the October meeting. The subject: Hate Crimes. A motion to request this action was made, seconded and approved.

Other Miscellaneous Business

Staff Liaison was asked to get information about the Commission getting involved in the Unity Walk and the MLK Celebration.

Commissioner Harvey reported that he spoke to a group of young members (9-13) of the Lake Oswego Baha'i. They asked him how do they get involved in the community. Commissioner Harvey asked permission to invite them to one of the HRAC meetings, which was approved.

Motion to adjourn official business, seconded and passed at 8:12 PM.