

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

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

The minutes of the March 10, 2009, meeting minutes were approved with the following correction: Add paragraph at the end, before the motion to adjourn. "The chair reported that the Commissioner who had two unexcused absences only had one and the matter was resolved."

Communication from Staff Liaison

- The Creative Expression Contest Award ceremony is scheduled for the City Council meeting of May 4, 2009.
- Additional contests are also scheduled by the City, e.g., "If I Were Mayor Contest." Only mentioned it because it is an invitation to students and may seem too close on the heels of the Creative Express Contest.
- The Mayor had a multi-cultural summit on April 4 to invite members of the various communities of Beaverton and discussed how they can get more involved in the City.

No hearings.

Project Updates

Creative Expression Contest:

- At the award ceremony, entry winners will read their poems or essays and show the DVD and then receive their awards.
- Commissioner Esther Griffin will bring in certificates; \$50 for first place, \$25 for two other winners in category. Staff will request a check for Commissioner Griffin to purchase certificates to Powell's Books.
- The grade school entry is a group from a Montessori school. Staff liaison will need to find out how the winnings will be distributed.
- Letters will go out to winners as soon as possible inviting them to the May 4 City Council presentation.
- Presenters: Commissioner Griffin will speak.
- Reception at 6PM – all entries will be laid out for viewing.
- Commissioner Griffin will arrange for reporters from local papers to be present.
- Staff will e-mail Commissioner Griffin a list of winners—title, name, school and grade
- Commissioner Griffin will draft a press release to papers
- Staff will check with Amy Miner re DVD entry being put on the web and getting permission from the parents
- Staff will put together a booklet, which includes the 9 winning entries, for the awards night.
- The binder will be available for the Library with all of the entries included.
- Commissioner Thomas will hand out certificates and gift cards.

After rest of agenda items were covered, the Commission then reviewed and voted on the winners of the contest. Commissioner Alton Harvey asked to be excused from voting; Commissioner Daniel Brown left his votes with Commission Chair Rob Solomon, after viewing or

reading all entries; and Commissioner Frank Monfared gave his proxy to Chair Solomon who was only to use it in case of a tie.

Other Miscellaneous Business

Commissioner Alton Harvey reported that he attended a multi-cultural event sponsored by the City of Portland. The objective of the meeting was to encourage youth to be involved in community service.

Commissioner Griffin indicated she would like to put on an event for children—perhaps entitled “Sharing Our Differences”—with specific emphasis to things that are unique to each family, e.g., disability, nationality, religion, race. For K through 12th grades. Displays, demos, food—whatever it may be that they would like to share for people to learn about them. One of the suggestions was to hold the event in the downstairs of the Beaverton City Library to allow for performances on the stage. Will look into this possibility. Commissioner Griffin would like to solicit help from the schools. The help from schools is more sharing info though schools, but actual assistance from upper grade student volunteers. Chairperson Solomon asked Commissioner Griffin to put together a one sheet summary with more information to bring to the next meeting or to a meeting over the next few months for the HRAC to consider. It was suggested that the event be held in the downstairs of the Beaverton City Library. Other ideas were offered to help with the recommendation.

Commissioner Solomon reported that he followed up with Public Information Manager, Amy Miner. Commissioner Griffin will handle the media relations for the creative expressions contest (this year and beyond). The Chair and the HRAC will be responsible for media relations. Amy Miner will help with press releases and will review them with any suggested changes and send back to the HRAC. Regarding meeting notices in the paper, the Commission is advised that not all meetings get into the paper.

Motion to adjourn official business seconded and passed at approximately 8:05 PM.