

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
February 10, 2009**

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

The minutes of the January 13, 2008, meeting were approved.

Introductions were made for Commissioner Christy Scott and for those who had not yet met all of the new Commissioners.

Communication from Staff Liaison

As a result of requests to improve the communication during the selection process for new commissioners, Nancy Bates committed to talking with the Mayor's Office to recommend some changes, especially regarding communicating the meeting day and time to prospective Commissioners.

Commissioners were reminded that much of the information about the Human Rights Advisory Commission is on the public website, including all meeting dates and times and changes in the location of the meeting.

Staff Liaison will arrange to have business cards printed up for each Commissioner who does not have them.

Commissioners also asked that the minutes be copied to Catherine Arnold.

No hearings.

Project Updates

Diversity Award:

Commissioner Thomas indicated that there appeared to be more than 20 supporters of the Diversity Award Winners at the Council Meeting. Both winners were in attendance and Larry Smith's presentation was highly regarded by those who attended.

Martin Luther King Day Celebration

Observations were made by those who attended that the attendees at the MLK event seemed pleased with the presentation arranged by the HRAC, specifically Commissioner Griffin's efforts. People commented that they felt it was one of the best programs they have had. HRAC was complimentary about Commissioner Griffin's presentation at the event. One Commissioner expressed a concern that the program seemed flat. There was discussion that HRAC did not really have a role in the program development and is the Commission really a sponsor. A motion was made to co-sponsor the MLK day and have representation at the meetings. Motion passed unanimously. The Commission will send a message to the MLK organizing committee to contact the Staff Liaison so that the HRAC can be included in the planning committee communication.

Creative Expression Contest:

Commissioner Griffin has been working with Public Information Manager, Amy Miner, and the reporters from the Valley Times and the Oregonian's Washington County weekly to advertise the contest. Commissioner Griffin will make sure a media representative is at the Council meeting in which the awards are made. Flyers and entry forms have been taken to the Beaverton schools. Commissioner Griffin talked with the Library and the contest will be put on the teen website.

An art teacher at Valley Catholic High School called and inquired about an entry for his students, asking if the students display their original work at the Teen Art Show at the Library, can they still enter the work/photos and entry form in the Human Rights Creative Expression Contest. The Commission agreed that the pictures could be submitted as an entry and the originals should be available for the March 10th meeting.

Amy Miner persuaded Maureen Wheeler, Beaverton School District, to send an e-mail to all Social Studies teachers in the school district. This is more than was expected and good news.

Voting will be done at the April HRAC meeting. The Commissioners would like the entries at the March 10 meeting, if possible.

Logo:

Staff Liaison advised that there was no known approval process for the new, recommended logo. The City expects communication to go out on City letterhead; however, there is nothing to stop the Commission from using the new logo in addition to the City logo on flyers for the various events.

Other Business and Communication:

Staff Liaison brought up what the by-laws say about attendance and unexcused absences. Commission Chair Solomon will contact the Commissioner who has more than two unexcused absences.

The question about alternative meeting times was raised. Commissioners discussed alternatives, and the first or fourth Tuesday of the month were identified as potential alternatives. Staff Liaison will find out if there are any conflicts with other meetings or the current location.

Commission Chair Solomon would like to invite Marilyn Johnson to speak with the HRAC. Ms. Johnson is the staff person for the City of Salem Human Rights Commission. The Commissioners all agreed.

Chair Solomon led a discussion regarding three subcommittees: Diversity Award Sub-Committee, Creative Expression Sub-Committee, and HRAC Outreach Sub-Committee. Each Commissioner was asked to join at least one sub-committee.

Diversity Award Sub-Committee: Blair Thomas, Chair; Rob Solomon; Alton Harvey

Creative Expression Sub-committee: Christy Scott, Esther Griffin, David Harburg

HRAC Outreach Sub-Committee: Judith Auslander, Rob Solomon, Daniel Brown

The Outreach sub-committee purpose is to raise HRAC profile and create visibility for the HRAC.

Commissioner Griffin brought up that there is a community film class in which a project is the making of a 5-10 minute video about an organization. The students get credit for producing a video about the subject organization, e.g., HRAC, and what it does. She described possibilities of what a student can do. Commissioner Harvey brought up the idea of putting together an event

that is multi-cultural. Commissioner Chair Solomon suggested Commissioner Harvey bring more information to the first Outreach Sub-committee meeting.

Staff Liaison committed to bringing the book Robert's Rules of Order to the next meeting and to getting the HRAC e-mail back onto her computer.

Motion to adjourn seconded and passed at approximately 8:24PM.