

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

February 6, 2013

Present: Commissioners David Harburg, Mackenzie DeLong, Esther Griffin, Rob Solomon, Mariam Ali, Dan Vi Nguyen, Sheri Struk, Alternate Commissioners Juanita Villarreal, Anna Petrov, Griff Masters and City Staff Liaison Bob Crocker

Absent: Commissioner Jamila Kisses

The meeting was called to order at 6:29 pm. Minutes of the January 2, 2013, meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. Commissioner DeLong moved to approve and Commissioner Villarreal seconded. Passed.

Communications from the City Staff Liaison: Bob Crocker pointed out the Human Rights Advisory Commission informational brochure should be updated and reprinted (phone number is not correct); the commission will review the flyer and bring back any changes/additions to the March meeting. Mr. Crocker also mentioned the schedule for the May City Council meetings has not been released; once the schedule is released, he will put the Creative Expression Contest award presentations on the City Council Agenda.

Communications from the City Council Liaison: Councilor Arnold was unable to attend the meeting.

Guests: Mr. Will Johnson

Mr. Johnson came to the meeting to express concern about the Beaverton Police Department. An incident occurred at a bus stop where the Trimet driver did not allow Mr. Johnson to ride the bus. Mr. Johnson called the Beaverton Police Department via a 9-1-1 call to seek assistance in the matter. When the Police Officer showed up at the scene, Mr. Johnson claimed he was racially discriminated against by the bus driver. He also felt the Police Officer treated him rudely because of his dark skin. He expressed that this is not the first time this has happened to him in Beaverton. Mr. Johnson said he would like to see action from the top (Chief of Police, Mayor, Management Team) to train all staff on cultural sensitivity training.

After Mr. Johnson left, Commissioners discussed options. Consensus was reached: Commissioners Griffin and Solomon will work to encourage the police to do some type of sensitivity training. Commissioner Ali suggested that the BPD develop a statement of policy that they would issue publicly declaring that all people in Beaverton will be treated with respect.

Project updates:

Creative Expression Contest (CEC): There has been one entry submitted so far. Commissioner Griffin reviewed the distribution of flyers expressing appreciation to those Commissioners who assisted in getting them out, she also reviewed the process, noting that at the next meeting Commissioners could expect their first exposure to the entries; the entries will then be sent to each Commissioner online, with a full month to consider. In April, Commissioners will select the winners.

MLK Day Celebration: Commissioner Griffin reported that the celebration went well with our student winners being well received. She noted that Commissioners Harburg, Ali, Petrov and Solomon were in attendance.

Diversity Taskforce Update: Juanita reported that 27 people attended this month's Diversity Task Force meeting where they learned about the work Daniel Vasquez has been doing in the community.

Human Rights Representative: Commissioner Nguyen explained to the new Alternates what this project entails and says she would welcome assistance in spreading the word to various communities. She will offer applications to the speakers at next month's Asian Cultural Conversation.

Miscellaneous Business:

HRAC retreat –Follow up:

Commissioner Struk's retreat notes were reviewed and the following items noted:

-Commissioner Solomon reported that Councilor Arnold was continuing to explore options for HRAC to have a Facebook presence. Based on preliminary investigations, we get access through the City's page but discussions are continuing.

-The need to have someone represent HRAC to the Diversity Task Force was discussed at length. Commissioner Ali expressed interest and will let the Chair know within a few days. If she is unable to accept the position, Commissioner Villarreal will accept it.

-The Commission needs to select someone to head the Human Rights Award project. Following discussion, it was agreed that Commissioners would come to the March meeting prepared to select someone.

-Commissioner Griffin shared that the deadline for applying to participate in the 2012 International Celebration was May 4th, so we need to decide by the April HRAC meeting if we want to have an activity at this year's event. If HRAC participate, Commissioner Villarreal will provide a canopy to avoid rental fees.

Other Business:

Commissioner DeLong asked for training on the aspects of Roberts' Rules of Order we use in our meetings. Commissioner Solomon agreed to research the availability of some outlines and agreed to do a brief training for commissioners soon.

It was noted that we have our Asian Cultural Conversation set for March and PFLAG for May.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ali; seconded by Commissioner Harburg. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.