

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

**March 6, 2013**

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

Absent: None.

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

Communications from the City Staff Liaison: Bob Crocker informed the Commission there were several free training sessions coming soon, sponsored by the Mayor's Office. Topics included effective meetings, use of social media and a program called Leadership Beaverton. Mr. Crocker also reminded the Commission the April meeting will be at City Hall, First Floor.

Communications from the City Council Liaison: Councilor Arnold briefly discussed that the City was visited by state and federal representatives as part of a White House program to support urban revitalization on February 14<sup>th</sup>; there was a daylong symposium to discuss how government agencies, nonprofits and businesses can help the city. The City of Beaverton was the first City in the nation to have a visit like this. Councilor Arnold also mentioned that the March 5 City Council meeting was structured as a roundtable, the first of its kind, and was for the purpose of policy setting. Ms. Arnold also mentioned the City buildings are going through resilience testing for earthquakes; a report will be available shortly. Councilor Arnold also mentioned that Beaverton PAL received some immediate need funding to stay open and is hoping to receive additional funds through the summer.

Guests: Diana Lo, Jane Yang and Anuradha Jairam

Commissioner Solomon gave the Commission an update on Mr. Johnson, who came to the HRAC meeting a couple months back to express concern about the Beaverton Police Department. Commissioner Solomon reported that Mr. Johnson is willing to meet with Chief Spalding and he feels strongly that sensitivity training will be a value to the Beaverton Police Department.

Commissioner Solomon also gave an update on Mr. McGill, a guest from a past HRAC meeting who had an incident with the Beaverton Police Department. Mr. McGill met with Chief Spalding, a BPD captain and Chair Solomon on Monday of this week (3/4). The meeting went well as Mr. McGill seemed pleased with attention taken by the Police Department and will send a letter to the Chief and Mr. Solomon outlining his feelings. The chair will share the letter with Commissioners when it arrives.

Cultural Conversations

This month's theme was about the Asian community in Beaverton. Ms. Lo, Ms. Yang and Ms. Jairam were guest speakers for this event. Ms. Lo is from Hong Kong and has lived in Beaverton since 1994. Ms. Yang is originally a refugee from Thailand to Austria and has lived in Beaverton for 10 years. Ms. Jairam was born in India and moved to the United States in 2004; she has worked in Beaverton for two and a half years.

All three guests talked about struggles and challenges moving to the United States and elaborated on the problems with finding help in the community. It was suggested by many that organizations that provide help for immigrants need to be more noticeable and they should reach out to citizens at cultural events. They mentioned specifically that immigrants' language differences, even speaking British English in the United States, can be a barrier to communication and acceptance. There were about 10 community visitors to this meeting, and they became participants in the conversation, offering many insights and suggestions regarding cultural differences and efforts to foster inclusion. One of the community visitors said it is very difficult to know about these Cultural Conversations. He only heard about it that evening from someone else. He asked that we do better advertising and outreach to let residents know these conversations are taking place. Cultural Conversation press releases are sent to local newspapers but are not always picked up. The Conversations are always noted on the City website home page and in the Beaverton Blog of OregonLive. HRAC continues to seek other ways to get the word out.

Project updates:

**Creative Expression Contest (CEC):** Entries were displayed and reviewed by all Commissioners. There were a total of 85 entries. Mr. Crocker will send them electronically to all Commissioners to peruse during the next month and they will be voted on at the April monthly meeting.

**Diversity Taskforce Update:** Commissioner Villarreal reported the City is working closely with Portland State University to have a diversity event in May. Daniel Vasquez has been continually doing community outreach and met with people from KBOO radio station.

**Human Rights Representative:** Commissioner Nguyen brought in the finalized form for the project and will send to all Commissioners. Commissioners were asked to help find residents who would be an asset to the project.

Miscellaneous Business:

Commissioner Masters gave a brief update on human trafficking. Commissioner Masters has contacted Deputy Bickford and will meet with his group tomorrow (3/7/13). He will report back to the Commission at the next meeting, including information as to how we can best work with their current initiatives to combat labor trafficking.

Other Business:

Commissioner DeLong had asked for training on the aspects of Roberts' Rules of Order we use in our meetings. Commissioner Solomon gave each Commissioner a book on Parliamentary Procedures and will do a short training at a later date.

There will be no Cultural Conversation in May as we have a guest speaker from PFLAG. The next Cultural Conversation is set for July and the population has yet to be identified.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ali; seconded by Commissioner Harburg. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.