

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

July 3, 2013

Present: Commissioners David Harburg, Esther Griffin, Rob Solomon, Dan Vi Nguyen, Jamila Kisses, Sheri Struk, Alternate Commissioners Anna Petrov, Griff Masters and City Council Liaison Cate Arnold

Absent: City Staff Liaison Bob Crocker, Commissioners Mackenzie DeLong, Juanita Villarreal and Alternate Commissioner Marcos Miranda

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm. Minutes of the June 5, 2013, meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. Commissioner Struk moved to approve and Commissioner Solomon seconded. Passed.

The Chair announced that for today, the Vice Chair would run the business portion of the meeting and Commissioner Solomon would take notes as City staff was unavailable to assist. The Chair was then passed to Commissioner Griffin.

Communications from the City Staff Liaison: None

Communications from the City Council Liaison: City Council has passed the budget for fiscal year 2013-2014. The City is getting ready for the Picnics in the Park. Councilor Arnold also discussed the Library budget and how expenses were problematic; Councilor Arnold said City Council was trying to keep it as is and have no layoffs.

Project updates:

Creative Expression Contest (CEC): Commissioner Griffin reported the reception and awards presentation went well, entries are displayed in a binder at the Beaverton City Library in the Young Adult Room and HRAC's public site has been updated with the winner and runner-up selections.

Diversity Taskforce Update: Commissioner Petrov reported on the Mayor's Diversity Task Force meeting on July 1st. She shared their agenda featuring discussions about Cover Oregon and their recent Multicultural Community Forum that was discussed at the last HRAC meeting. She passed around a Forum summary report for Commissioners to review and noted that FACE and MESO made presentations to the Task Force.

Human Rights Representative Project: Commissioner Nguyen had nothing new to report. She would like to approach people to be representatives if they have already established some type of connection with the HRAC, like participating in a Cultural Conversation, rather than just outreach in the general community.

Miscellaneous Business:

Commissioner Solomon gave an update on HRAC Facebook page. The City is unclear as to what may or may not be allowed due to new concerns from the City Attorney regarding state retention rules and others. A meeting has been tentatively set for next week to discuss the issue of HRAC's Facebook presence. The discussion has gone on for about a year and a half, Commissioner Solomon noted.

Commissioner Solomon gave a brief report on the status of the ex-officio position with Chief Spalding. Commissioner Solomon noted that despite the apology and commitment to make it happen from the City Attorney's office, nothing has happened yet. Commissioner Solomon expressed his appreciation to Councilor Arnold for her efforts to help so far, but asked that she try once again to help the change to happen. Our Council Liaison agreed to try.

Other Business:

Commissioner Griffin shared the schedule for Commissioners working the HRAC table at the July City picnics:

July 8: Commissioners Petrov and DeLong

July 12: Commissioners Struk and Griffin

July 15: Commissioners Harburg and Miranda

July 17: Commissioners Solomon and Masters

Commissioner Griffin created a trifold display about HRAC for use at the Picnics, and also provided Creative Expression flyers in English and Spanish, and additional student artwork. These items, as well as the HRAC banner, were given to Commissioner Petrov for the first Picnic. Other items provided were HRAC brochures and magnets, Universal Declaration of Human Rights booklets, and HRAC photos from the past year. A plan was set up for Commissioners to get all the Picnic materials to the next set of Commissioners for tabling.

Commissioner Griffin shared the current draft of our revised brochure and encouraged Commissioners to review it and offer suggestions. There is also still a need for photographs for some of the areas. She noted that due to a backlog, the printing could not be done until mid-July.

There was some discussion about upcoming Cultural Conversations, several ideas we mentioned included the Somali population and Russian residents.

Commissioner Solomon was asked to provide any information on the Eastside Forum (Theater of the Oppressed) project. They had approached the Commission to see if there was potential to bring their work (an interactive play) to our city. Commissioner Solomon saw their current play the previous evening and spoke highly of the production. It was moved by Commissioner Solomon and seconded by Commissioner Petrov that Commissioner Solomon be empowered to enter into negotiations to bring the group to Beaverton this fall. Passed unanimously.

Chair Griffin returned the Chair to Commissioner Solomon at 7:31pm. Noting that our speakers had yet to arrive, a ten minute break ensued.

Reconvening at 7:43, the Cultural Conversation speakers for the Filipino community, still having failed to arrive, was not held. The Chair asked all present to engage in a conversation about diversity versus assimilation inspired by the anonymous comments following an article posted on OregonLive about the upcoming Cultural Conversation.

chPublic participated as well. Discussion included frustrations with folks who seemed intolerant of different cultures and options to deal with acceptance of diverse populations within a community.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Petrov; seconded by Commissioner Kisses. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.