

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

August 7, 2013

Present: Commissioners Mackenzie DeLong Esther Griffin, Rob Solomon, Dan Vi Nguyen, Jamila Kisses, Sheri Struk, Alternate Commissioners Anna Petrov, Griff Masters and Marcos Miranda, City Council Liaison Cate Arnold and City Staff Liaison Bob Crocker

Absent: Commissioners David Harburg and Juanita Villarreal

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Minutes of the July 3, 2013, meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. Commissioner DeLong moved to approve and Commissioner Petrov seconded. Passed.

Communications from the City Staff Liaison: Mr. Crocker advised the commission regarding the timeline for reapplying for individuals whose terms are expiring December 31, 2013.

Communications from the City Council Liaison: Councilor Arnold reported the City Council recently passed a resolution for a company to develop a proposal for building a healthcare facility at the Westgate property; the company has 120 days to present back to City Council. It was also reported that National Night Out (August 6th at City Park) had a good turn out with many activities.

Guests: Juliet Car presented to the commission regarding organ harvesting in China. Ms. Car briefly discussed H. Res. 281, a resolution in US Congress to end organ harvesting in China, and discussed other methods individuals and groups are trying to get the word out to communities. Ms. Car came to the commission asking for the commission to write a letter to Oregon US Representative Suzanne Bonamici to co-sponsor a resolution on this matter. The commission will discuss next steps at September's meeting.

Dr. Jeff Rose, Superintendent, and Sho Shigeoka, from the Beaverton School District discussed the upcoming school year and specifics on what the district has been working on. Dr. Rose touched on the financial implications for last school year and was happy to report the district was able to accommodate some staff by moving them to different schools. Dr. Rose also discussed a new project the district launched this year called Community Conversations which was geared toward future-focused ideas for the district; there were approximately 600 individuals involved including students, parents, businesses, non-profit organizations and non-parent patrons. It was also reported the Beaverton School District will have a redesigned and more user-friendly webpage starting September 3, 2013, and the webpage will feature the new "pillars" or "cornerstones" for the school district. There was much discussion about "equity" and how this will tie into the new future-focused "pillars".

Commissioner Griffin presented several projects Portland and Beaverton staff have been working with the Oregon LGBTQ Educators and Allies Group, which meets monthly in Portland. This group began following an incident in BSD in which a gay student teacher was dismissed, and other LGBTQ staff in the Portland Metro area raised concerns about their job security if they are "out" at school. The Eds and Allies group has been doing research on this and related matters (e.g., what can be said in a classroom, welcoming LGBTQ families, the value of having GSAs in middle schools, etc.) and has presented their findings to the Portland Public Schools. Commissioner Griffin shared the group's work-in-progress with Dr. Rose and Sho Shigeoka, and hopes that BSD will incorporate this information into their Equity work in the coming year.

Project updates:

Human Rights Award: Commissioner Griffin reached out to the commission for any volunteers willing to be the lead(s) on this year's Human Rights Award. Duties would include marketing and outreach.

Commissioner Griffin mentioned the nominations would be due on October 31, 2013. Commissioner DeLong expressed interest in being one of the leads for this project.

Diversity Taskforce Update: Commissioner Petrov reported on the Mayor's Diversity Task Force meeting on August 5. She shared their agenda featuring discussions about the creation of the Diversity Advisory Board and the timeline for formation. Ms. Petrov did say the Diversity Taskforce expressed concerns over recruiting because of language barriers.

Human Rights Representative Project: Commissioner Nguyen reported there have been some applications submitted and the folder would be located at Commissioner Solomon's personal office.

Miscellaneous Business:

Commissioner Solomon and DeLong gave an update on HRAC Facebook page. After meeting with the City Attorney and other individuals, the only way HRAC could have its own Facebook page was if it was completely separate from the City. However, Commissioners would be held liable for any lawsuits that may arise. It was decided to wait to make a final decision until we receive the printed guidelines from the City Attorney who is currently working on them.

Commissioner Solomon gave a brief report on the status of the ex-officio position with Chief Spalding. Commissioner Solomon noted August 13 is the date the City Council would approve or deny this position. After the August 13 City Council meeting and if the City Council approves the amendment to the HRAC by laws, Chair Solomon will meet with Mr. Kirby (City Attorney) to develop the exact wording for the bylaws change.

Other Business:

In discussing the need for Commissioners who are nearing the end of their term (12/31/13) to reapply, Chair Solomon noted that he will not be seeking reappointment. He encouraged all eligible Commissioners to consider seeking the Chair position in December and offered his support to whoever will be the new Chair. Vice Chair Commissioner Griffin added that after due consideration she has decided not to seek the Chair and wanted all to know the new Chair would continue to have her support.

September's Cultural Conversation may include Beaverton residents from a Russian background. Commissioner Solomon is exploring this option further.

Commissioner Solomon provided information on the Eastside Forum (Theater of the Oppressed) project. Commissioner Solomon met with one of the actresses and the producer to discuss options for a play tailored to human rights. Several ideas were mentioned including woman, Hispanic and disabled. The proposed amount was \$3000. HRAC would have to receive outside funding for this.

The commissioners briefly discussed the tabling at the various Picnics in the Park. The commission will suggest to the Mayor's Office the tables should be spread out more, which will allow commissioners to stand on the side of the display without blocking others' tables or their own. Overall, all locations ran smoothly. Alternate Commissioner Miranda suggested thinking of a game centered around human rights; having this may attract more residents to the table.

Commissioner Masters gave the commissioners some information regarding the Oregon Against Trafficking Humans (OATH) and the worthwhileness of their newsletter. Mr. Masters also mentioned "Rape for Profit" was available online, a documentary.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Petrov; seconded by Commissioner Struk. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.