

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

**September 4, 2013**

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

Absent: Commissioner Jamila Kisses, Alternate Commissioner Marcos Miranda and City Council Liaison Cate Arnold

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Minutes of the August 7, 2013, meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. Commissioner Petrov moved to approve and Commissioner Harburg seconded. Passed.

Communications from the City Staff Liaison: None

Communications from the City Council Liaison: None

Guests: Juliet Car came back to the commission regarding organ harvesting in China. Ms. Car, at the last meeting, 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. After some discussion, the motion to request City and Council and Mayor Doyle to publicly declare support for H. Res 281 regarding the organ harvesting in China was moved by Commissioner Struk and seconded by Commissioner Masters (voting member due to absence of Commissioner Kisses). The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Crocker will follow up with the Mayor's Office on next steps.

Project updates:

**Human Rights Award:** Commissioners Griffin and DeLong briefly talked about the upcoming Human Rights Award. Commissioner Griffin made changes to the HRAC display board advertising the award. The display board will be set up at City Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor starting October 3. Commissioner DeLong will look into creating a PDF and writing a press release asking for nominations.

**Diversity Taskforce Update:** Commissioner Petrov reported on the Mayor's Diversity Task Force and said the last meeting as a taskforce will be in September and effective in January it will be the Diversity Advisory Board, which will have 13 members. Commissioner Petrov also went over the upcoming meeting agenda.

**Human Rights Representative Project:** Nothing new to report.

Miscellaneous Business:

Commissioner Solomon reported that he was still waiting for information from Lani Parr and Bill Kirby on the Facebook issue.

Commissioner Solomon gave a brief report on the status of the ex-officio position with Chief Spalding. Commissioner Solomon presented the amended bylaw that was drafted by the City Attorney. A motion to approve the bylaws amendment as written by the City Attorney Bill Kirby was raised by Commissioner Struk and seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Passed unanimously.

### Other Business:

A quick reminder was given by Commissioner Solomon for the need for Commissioners who are nearing the end of their term (12/31/13) to reapply.

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 women, Hispanic and disabled. After many changes to the proposal, the Forum's current ideas were shared with the Commission. Due to the increased costs and other factors, Commission consensus was to not pursue the project at this time. Commissioner Solomon will inform the producer.

Commissioner Solomon mentioned to the commission that City Council would welcome updates from Boards and Commissions on what has happened within the Commission in the past two years and future events being planned. Commissioner Solomon said he would draft a report to present. Commission agreed this would be a good idea.

Commissioner Solomon mentioned the Beaverton City Library will be hosting a film and discussion on Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World on September 8 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. in the Beaverton City Library Auditorium.

### **Guests for Cultural Conversation: Russian Community**

Three residents attended and presented from the Russian community in Beaverton.

Eugenia Elisman came to the United States in 1979 and established a home in Beaverton. Ms. Elisman said she was greeted by friendly and supportive residents. She went to college at Portland State University and studied Engineering, which was her profession for many years. She touched on her personal life, her engineering career and being a woman in a "man's profession".

Sula Rozenfeld came to the United States from Estonia in 1992; some of her family was already in the United States. Ms. Rozenfeld worked many years as an interpreter and continues to volunteer in the community.

Nataly Teplitsky came to the United States from Armenia. She has been in the area for 16 years and currently volunteers with the City of Beaverton Sister Cities Program.

All three speakers stressed that further education is key to a successful transition and career.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Struk; seconded by Commissioner Villarreal. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.