

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

November 6, 2013

Present: Commissioners Mackenzie DeLong, Esther Griffin, Rob Solomon, Juanita Villarreal, Dan Vi Nguyen, David Harburg, Sheri Struk, Anna Petrov, Alternate Commissioner Griff Masters, Ex-Officio Chief Spalding 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 6:33 p.m. Minutes of the October 2, 2013, meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. Commissioner Griffin moved to approve and Commissioner Petrov seconded. Passed.

Communications from the City Staff Liaison: Mr. Crocker announced interviews were conducted and recommendations were sent to the Mayor's Office for new commissioners and altertatesfor the 2014 Human Rights Advisory Commission.

Communications from the City Council Liaison: None

Chair Solomon welcomed Geoff Spalding to his first HRAC meeting as an ex-officio member. He noted that the Commission is looking forward to a close working relationship with our Police Department.

Project updates:

Human Rights Award: There were two nominations for this year's Human Rights Award, both in the individual category. The first nominee is Chris Harker who has served the last six years as the State Representative for D34, which covers a large section of Beaverton. "During his time in office he has worked closely with the citizens from his district, in particular minorities and students. During the last legislative session he took the lead in passing Tuition Equity and many students from the city of Beaverton are now able to attend State Colleges paying in-state tuition, hence opening educational and professional opportunities. Children who reside in Beaverton had limited higher educational opportunities due to no fault of their own. Further, Chris Harker dealt with the issue of driving privileges for individuals in our state and our city that are not able to secure a driver's license, hence making many essential activities such as going to the doctor and taking their children to school very difficult. In 2014, many residents of Oregon will be able to secure a driver's card that will provide a substantial solution to the issue of mobility. The impact of his activities both as a citizen of Beaverton and as a State Legislator will provide dignity and better living conditions to a large number of residents of the City of Beaverton." Submitted by Marcos Miranda.

The second nominee is President Allen Oyler who leads the Beaverton Oregon Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In February of 2013, President Oyler organized an event that "truly made a wonderful contribution to human rights in the city of Beaverton." This event was a panel involving gay members of the Church who were invited to share with other Church members in the Beaverton area about their experiences as gay church members. The goal of this event was to help Church members better relate to the challenges that gay members may encounter and foster a welcoming environment for these members. The event was well attended, and the panel members were warmly received. The fact is that he took some risk, because it asked people to perhaps leave their comfort zone and confront a topic that is not often tackled head-on in LDS congregations. In so doing, he allowed people to develop a greater understanding of the needs of the gay community within the LDS church. Submitted by Mackenzie DeLong

After discussion from Commissioner members, a motion for the Human Rights Award to be awarded to Mr. Oyler was moved by Commissioner Masters and seconded by Commissioner DeLong. Passed.

Diversity Taskforce Update: None.

Human Rights Representative Project: Commissioner Nguyen reiterated that she would like to see this project continue, even though she will not be part of the Commission next year. Commissioner Solomon mentioned this would be a good topic for next year's retreat. Commissioner Griffin asked Commissioner Nguyen if she would like to be a representative from the Vietnamese community; Commissioner Nguyen accepted.

Human Trafficking: Commissioner Masters reported there will be a presentation on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Hillsboro on November 7, 2013, from 9:00-10:30 a.m. The event is free.

Commissioner Masters also mentioned that he is attempting to reach out to Professor Kerry from Portland State University to discuss human trafficking and to invite him to an HRAC meeting as a guest.

Creative Expression Contest (CEC): Beaverton School District posted information about the contest on their website. Commissioner Griffin reported we have already received an inquiry from a parent of a high school student, which means the information is being seen.

Miscellaneous Business:

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

There was a brief discussion about the upcoming openings for Chair and Vice Chair. Those elections will be held at the December monthly meeting.

Commissioner Griffin briefly discussed the Interfaith Action Network event for Martin Luther King Day. IAN has chosen Colette Parry to read her poem Veritas at the event. Discussion ensued about Torrie Webb's video to be shown; Commission is hoping it will be, however it will depend on time constraints for program. Commissioner Griffin will inquire with IAN again.

Ideas by the Commission for upcoming Cultural Conversations included Native American, Chinese and Somali Beaverton residents. Commissioner Solomon is working on finalizing plans for January. Commissioner Solomon said it was very likely representatives from the Somali community would be the January Cultural Conversation guests.

Commissioner Solomon asked the Commission for ideas on his presentation to City Council for an update on the Human Rights Advisory Commission. Ideas included Picnics In the Park tabling and building awareness of Commission, continuing to build relationship with Beaverton School District, increased awareness of HRAC by residents, building closer relationship with Beaverton Police Department, minutes (when possible) translated in Spanish and the popularity of having a Cultural Conversation translated.

Commissioner Solomon mentioned the Human Rights Advisory Commission submitted a poster of the Cultural Conversations to Congress of Cities and Exposition in Seattle this November 13th through 16th.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Harburg; seconded by Commissioner Villarreal. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.