

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

**February 5, 2014**

Present: Commissioners Farrah Chaichi, Damarise Davis, Jeni Felker, Esther Griffin, Mary Anne Harmer, Griffith Masters, Anna Petrov, Sheri Struk, Juanita Villarreal, Alternate Commissioners Jamal AbuSneineh, Kim Lawler, Victor Mena and Shannon Younce, Ex-Officio Police Chief Spalding, City Council Liaison Ian King and City Staff Liaison Bob Crocker.

Absent: None.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. Minutes of the January 8, 2014, meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. Commissioner Petrov moved to approve and Commissioner Villarreal seconded. Passed.

Communications from the City Staff Liaison: Business cards were distributed to new members as well as to existing members who needed them. When City Hall moves to their new location later in the year, updated business cards with the new address will be given to all Commissioners. On Monday, February 10, 2014, the City of Beaverton Boards and Commissions "Being an Effective Volunteer" training will be held at City Hall.

Communications from the City Council Liaison: Councilor King reported City Council began discussion about marijuana dispensaries in Beaverton. Beaverton city code does not currently address marijuana dispensaries and clarification about the medicinal use of marijuana is also needed. City Council will be consulting with the city attorney about these issues. A six month moratorium on marijuana distribution in Beaverton is being considered, during which time it is hoped that state and federal legislation will be passed so the City can better determine the legality of marijuana dispensaries. During the upcoming City Council meeting, public comment will be heard about these issues. Additionally, Councilor King briefly reviewed the State of the City Address and indicated a video of the address is available online at the City's website.

Communications from Ex-Officio Police Chief Spalding: Police Chief Spalding gave an overview of the potential impact of marijuana dispensaries from a public safety perspective. He also reviewed a previous discrimination complaint the Commission had collaborated with him on and gave information pertaining to a positive follow-up meeting with the individual involved. On February 6, 2014, Police Chief Spalding and Fire Chief Duyck will be speaking at the Beaverton Forum to address upcoming changes in the City.

On April 2, 2014, at 5:45 p.m., Jahmai Cherry will be giving HRAC Commissioners a tour of the Beaverton Police Department and talk about the need for a new Public Safety Center. He will address issues of specific interest to HRAC, for example, how mental health crises are dealt with by the Police Department. Attendance is voluntary but strongly encouraged.

A member of the public, Jolene Guptill, addressed the Commission about the lack of a warming shelter for homeless citizens to use on nights with below freezing temperatures. Commission members asked questions about why Beaverton's previous warming shelter was closed and what neighboring cities currently have warming shelters. Councilor King indicated the city has been looking for a community partner to help re-establish a warming shelter. Beaverton does not have available city-owned, physical space to accommodate a city-sponsored warming shelter. Discussion ensued about the availability of local churches, however many churches are not set up to meet the requirements involved in having a warming shelter. Other possible solutions for temporary housing in lieu of warming shelters were discussed, such as Beaverton businesses sponsoring a room at a hotel to provide a warm place for those needing housing. Lisa Montesana from the Beaverton School District was also suggested as a possible resource person since she has a list of referrals that she can recommend to individuals needing housing. Police Chief Spalding reported that the police department has some emergency housing resources and can provide information about openings at nearby shelters. There is currently no centralized database for knowing how many openings are available at local shelters. It was also recommended that Ms. Guptill contact the Social Services Funding Board to see what resources they may provide and Alton Harvey, Sr. was also suggested as a resource person for addressing issues related to homelessness. Alternate Commissioner Younce described a successful program for addressing homelessness that was utilized in Minnesota. She offered to provide further information about the program to Ms. Guptill.

HRAC's Procedures for Handling Citizen Complaints (PHCC) was reviewed for possible updating so it can be linked to the HRAC homepage and be more easily accessible to people needing to file a complaint of discrimination within Beaverton. The document originated following an incident of discrimination against an Asian family in Beaverton. In discussion of the PHCC, it was suggested that the name of the form be changed since usage of the word "citizen" excludes non-citizens. Complaints can be filed by non-citizens who work, visit and/or use any public accommodation in Beaverton. The form also lacks specific language about who will be contacted once a complaint is lodged. Commissioner Petrov reported Head Start has used a similar form for a similar purpose and she offered to obtain the Head Start form for the Commission to consult as a model. (The Head Start form is available in several languages.) The PHCC's one year time limitation was also addressed and it was determined that the current time limitation should be removed. Concern was also expressed about individuals being reluctant to make complaints if they believed the government would find out. Due to this concern, it was recommended that complaints not be communicated to City Council. Any changes to the PHCC would need to be reviewed by the city attorney. Commissioners Davis, Felker and Petrov as well as Alternate Commissioner Mena agreed to work on revamping and simplifying the document.

Reports from meetings/events attended:

**Avakian/BOLI:** Commissioner Griffin attended the January BOLI meeting and reported that recent developments at BOLI include interns being given the same rights as employees and protections from discrimination for spouses of veterans. In addition, investigations into discrimination are now taking twice as fast as they previously were due to a new triage system being used by BOLI.

**Diversity Advisory Board Liaison:** Commissioner Harmer attended the Diversity Advisory Board meeting on January 13, 2014. She reported the Diversity Advisory Board is currently working on creating an equity and diversity plan and they have been given nine months to complete this task. Commissioner Harmer will follow-up with the Diversity Advisory Board regarding whether her attendance is necessary during the Board's creation of the equity and diversity plan.

**Human Rights Award Presentation:** On January 14, 2014, Allen Oyler (President of the Beaverton Stake Center of the LDS Church) was presented with the 2013 Human Rights Award at the City Council meeting. An article appeared in the Oregonian on January 5, 2014, about Mr. Oyler.

**State of the City:** As previously stated, Councilor King attended the event on January 15, 2014, and the Mayor reviewed his fourteen point agenda for the coming year.

**Washington County Human Rights Council:** Commissioners Griffin and Chaichi attended the January 16, 2014, meeting during which United States Attorney, Amanda Marshall, spoke. FBI Special Agent Christine Paz was present at the meeting and Commissioner Griffin spoke with her about having an FBI agent speak at a Commission meeting. FBI Special Agent Floyd contacted Commissioner Griffin and indicated he would be interested in speaking to the Commission. FBI Special Agent Floyd will be speaking to the Commission in May and he will address the topics of human trafficking and hate crimes.

**MLK Day Event:** Commissioners Griffin and Struk reported the MLK Day Event on January 19, 2014, went well and both CEC-winning student presenters were well-received.

Project Updates:

**Human Rights Representative Project:** Commissioner Griffin indicated that this project will be addressed during the upcoming HRAC retreat which is scheduled for February 8, 2014, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Human Trafficking:** None.

**Creative Expression Contest (CEC):** Commissioner Griffin reported that flyers for the contest have been distributed to libraries, recreation centers, schools and Powell's Books on Cedar Hills. Commission members were encouraged to continue to distribute flyers to individuals eligible to participate in the contest. Commissioner Felker expressed interest in providing Commissioner Griffin with additional assistance in the contest. Contest entries will be collected through February 28, 2014. Entries will then be seen by Commission members during the March HRAC meeting and voting for the contest will take place during the April HRAC meeting.

Miscellaneous Business:

Commissioner Villarreal will be following up with leads on possible Native American speakers for March's Cultural Conversation. An announcement was made in the "Your City" publication regarding the Native American Cultural Conversation.

A recording secretary is needed to take minutes during HRAC meetings. Further discussion about this need will take place at the upcoming HRAC retreat.

Commissioners Chaichi and Felker will be working on setting up possible speakers from the transgender community for the Cultural Conversation in June.

As previously stated, the HRAC retreat is scheduled for February 8, 2014, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Alternate Commissioner Lawler's home.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Struk; seconded by Commissioner Chaichi. Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.