

## HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

March 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 Kim Lawler, Victor Mena, and Shannon Younce, Ex-Officio Police Chief Spalding, City Council Liaison Ian King and City Staff Liaison Bob Crocker

**Absent:** Alternate Commissioner Jamal AbuSneineh.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Minutes of the February 5, 2014, meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. Commissioner Harmer moved to approve and Commissioner Davis seconded. Passed.

**Communications from the City Staff Liaison:** Name tags were distributed to new members. The City of Beaverton's Board & Commission Membership Manual from the City of Beaverton Boards & Commissions Training held on March 4, 2014 was also handed out to members who were unable to attend the training.

**Communications from the City Council Liaison:** Councilor King provided a recap of the March 4, 2014 training. He also provided an update regarding the medical marijuana dispensaries that are being considered within the city, and what occurred at the last City Council meeting held on February 25, 2014, regarding the dispensaries. Councilor King reported that City Council amended its decision regarding the dispensaries to a 6-month moratorium stating that it is unclear, per the legislature, as to whether or not the city could or could not ban the dispensaries.

**Communications from Police Chief Spalding:** Chief Spalding had no new major issues to report. Chief Spalding reported that a new date has not yet been scheduled for the Beaverton Forum to make-up for the February 6, 2014 forum that was cancelled due to snow.

**Reports from Meetings/Events Attended:** Commissioner Griffin provided an overview of the film screening she attended for *American Winter*. The film screening was held in Hillsboro at the Venetian Theater and in lieu of the February Washington County Human Rights Council meeting. Commissioner Griffin stated that the film was "eye-opening" and that it addresses the poverty issue that the Human Rights Advisory Commission has taken an interest in. The film can be viewed on HBO.

The following handouts were provided: *Washington County Fact Sheet: Poverty* and the *Washington County Survey*.

Commissioner Griffin also briefly discussed the Boards & Commissions training and encouraged everyone to read the PowerPoint from the training. The PowerPoint was then handed out to members who were unable to attend.

#### **Project Updates:**

**Diversity Taskforce Update:** Commissioner Harmer reported that the Diversity Advisory Board (DAB) is focusing on team building and engaging in a 9-month process on strategic planning. Commissioner Harmer will follow up with board liaison regarding which meetings are appropriate to attend.

**Human Trafficking:** Commissioner Masters will contact the new subcommittee members this week via e-mail regarding human trafficking.

**Creative Expression Contest (CEC):** There have been many entries received. The commissioners were able to view the entries that were not yet viewable online, such as artwork and videos. The commissioners were reminded to select one First Place winner and two runners-up from each category – elementary, middle, and high school- and come prepared to vote at the April HRAC meeting.

**Procedures for Handling Citizen Complaints:** Commissioner Davis reported that she received the Civil Rights Complaint Form used by the USDA and the State of Oregon, from Commissioner Petrov, as an example of how the committee can update their form, as well as the ideas regarding the changes to the document from both Commissioners Griffin and Chaichi. Commissioners had a short discussion about Commissioner Chaichi's ideas and being a "portal" to other entities, as well as the possibility of collecting data regarding complaints. Councilor King recommended that some of the issues raised would be a good conversation to have with the City Attorney. The goal is to update the process this year from the way it was written in 1994, and provide a link to access it through HRAC's homepage.

**Miscellaneous Business:** Commissioners were reminded of the April meeting and that we are scheduled to meet with Jahmai Cherry at the Beaverton Police Department at 5:45 PM for a tour and discussion of the Beaverton Police Department and issues relating to the Human Rights Advisory Commission. Also a reminder for members to submit their background checks if they have not already done so as this needs to be done in order to participate in the tour.

The Visioning Advisory Committee will give a 15-minute presentation at the July meeting.

Commissioner Griffin requested updates from members involved in getting together speakers within the transgender community to have a Cultural Conversation in July. She suggested that there could be a panel of four people – Female to Male, Male to Female, younger and older, so that there would be different perspectives to hear.

Motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting was made by Commissioner Struk; seconded by Commissioner Villarreal. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**Cultural Conversation:** After the business portion of the meeting was adjourned, the committee was joined by John Shaw, teacher of Native American History for Portland Community College, Sylvania Campus and Delbert Stone, born in a Native American tribe in California. Some community members listened to the eye-opening conversation as well.

Professor Shaw spoke about the history of the Native Americans and how the Europeans created a cultural gap, which currently still exists. Treaties made by the US government with Native American tribes were discussed, including how the majority of these treaties originally offered by the government (i.e., land rights, fishing rights, etc.) have since been broken by the government, and Native Americans continue to suffer from this.

Mr. Stone discussed the ongoing issues of Alcatraz Island, the issues that are currently occurring within the tribe, as well as a brief overview of his childhood. He also communicated that although he feels comfortable in Beaverton, he and other Native Americans carry ongoing pain and hurt from the way they and their ancestors have been treated by our government and the many foreign settlers of this country. Mr. Stone and his wife, Toni, who also participated in the conversation, shared the conditions that Native Americans are currently experiencing on the reservation, including that of poverty and lack of education.