

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

August 6, 2014

Present: Commissioners Farrah Chaichi, Esther Griffin, Kim Lawler, Griffith Masters, Anna Petrov, Sheri Struk, Shannon Younce, Alternate Commissioner Manijeh Mehrnoosh, Ex-Officio Police Chief Spalding, City Council Liaison Ian King and City Staff Liaisons Bob Crocker and Carmin Ruiz.

Absent: Commissioners Jeni Felker, Juanita Villarreal, Alternate Commissioners Jamal AbuSneineh and William Encinas.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Minutes of the July 2, 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved as written. Commissioner Younce moved to approve and Commissioner Petrov seconded. Passed.

A potential new alternate commissioner to HRAC, Karin vonKrenner, attended the meeting and was introduced.

Communications from the City Staff Liaison: Mr. Crocker discussed meeting locations for upcoming HRAC meetings and informed the commission that there will be an email reminder about meeting locations for 2015 that will not be at the Library. Commissioner Griffin was congratulated for her nomination at the Service to Beaverton Awards Banquet. Mr. Crocker reminded those HRAC commissioners whose terms will be expiring at the end of the year that they will need to reapply by filling out an online application by October 1. Alexis Ball, the new Inclusion and Diversity staff person for the City, is willing to come to HRAC and share what she is doing and hear feedback from HRAC. It was suggested that Ms. Ball be invited to speak for fifteen minutes during the November HRAC meeting. Mr. Crocker informed HRAC that the commission may send one person to represent HRAC at the Festival of Japan on September 20 and 21. Commissioner Petrov and Alternate Commissioner Mehrnoosh volunteered to table the event and Commissioner Chaichi agreed to attend to help with promotion of the Human Rights Award.

Communications from the City Council Liaison: Councilor King reported that City Hall is moving to the Round beginning on August 8. On August 19, the final ballot bond measure pertaining to the Beaverton Police Department will go before City Council for approval. Additionally, Councilor King will be attending a meeting about the Nike Campus Expansion.

Communications from Police Chief Spalding: Chief Spalding reported that the Beaverton Police Department is trying to get all off site offices to a single location; however, their current location at City Hall is undersized even with the City of Beaverton employees moving to the Round. Tours of the Beaverton Police Department are still available. Chief Spalding provided clarification regarding news about four Ethiopian athletes who were reported missing from the University of Oregon and were seen in Beaverton. He reported that three of the four athletes were contacted by the Beaverton Police in order to make sure the individuals were safe. He further stated that the Beaverton Police Department is not involved in starting active deportation hearings.

Reports from meetings/events attended

Washington County Human Rights Council: Commissioner Chaichi reported that the Washington County Human Rights Council is currently reviewing their by-laws and is putting together an advisory board for the purpose of having elected officials and individuals of various backgrounds to consult with about topics that may arise.

Project Updates

Human Trafficking: Commissioner Masters talked about educational material pertaining to human trafficking prevention that could be used by the Beaverton School District. It was suggested that Commissioner Masters consult with Catholic Charities about materials they use and that he also review the Beaverton School District website (as well as the websites of individual schools) to see what resources are available. He announced that on August 9th, a community garage sale would be taking place in Tigard to benefit Hope 82, an organization that provides aid to adult survivors of human trafficking. Additionally, Commissioner Masters reported he continues to be in contact with Detective Opitz of the Beaverton Police Department.

Human Rights Award (including library display): Commissioner Younce stated she is working on sending out additional e-mail messages to promote the award. (E-mail messages will be sent to the City and Commissioner Griffin for approval.) Librarians from the Beaverton City Library will be displaying information about the award along with a related book display about human rights and noted individuals at the Beaverton City Library from August 24 to September 6. The deadline for submission of award entries is October 31.

Procedures for Handling Citizen Complaints (PHCC) and By-Laws: Commissioner Griffin reported that the City of Beaverton is currently reviewing these documents due to conflicting information between the documents and City Ordinances.

September Multicultural Conversation: Commissioner Lawler updated HRAC on the four speakers who have agreed to participate in the September Multicultural Conversation. The speakers are of Hispanic, African American, Middle Eastern and Pacific Island descent.

Miscellaneous

Upcoming Cultural Conversation Speakers: HRAC would like to have a Cultural Conversation that addresses homelessness, particularly homelessness among students. There is a group that does dog sitting at the Beaverton Farmer's Market that could be a possible resource for providing a speaker. (Commissioners were asked to contact Commissioner Griffin via e-mail with any further ideas about speakers.)

Meeting Attendance: Commissioner Griffin reminded commissioners about HRAC's attendance policy. Commissioners were instructed to send an email to Commissioner Griffin in the event of their absence. If a commissioner has too many absences, they may be asked to leave the commission.

Commissioner Lawler updated HRAC on progress regarding the ERA motion made during the July HRAC meeting. City Councilor King stated that Commissioner Lawler should write a resolution about ERA and present the resolution to the City Council. Commissioner Lawler agreed to write the resolution and Commissioner Petrov volunteered to assist in the writing process.

HRAC discussed the current conflict going on in the Middle East between the Israeli and Palestinian groups and human rights violations occurring in this conflict. Many opinions by HRAC members were shared. The discussion was cut short due to the library closing and HRAC members needing to leave the building. Members of HRAC would like to take some action on this issue and spend further time discussing the kind of action to take.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Struk; seconded by Commissioner Lawler. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.