

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

November 5, 2014

Present: Commissioners Farrah Chaichi, Esther Griffin, Kim Lawler, Griffith Masters, Anna Petrov, Sheri Struk, Juanita Villarreal, Shannon Younce, Alternate Commissioners Jamal AbuSneineh, William Encinas, and Manijeh Mehrnoosh, City Council Liaison Ian King, Ex-Officio Police Chief Spalding and City Staff Liaison Carmin Ruiz.

Guests: Crystal Ashton and Karin Von Krenner.

Absent: Commissioner Jeni Felker.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Superintendent Jeff Rose of the Beaverton School District (BSD) and Sho Shigeoka, BSD's Equity Coordinator, gave an update on current progress the school district is making on policies regarding inclusiveness. Dr. Rose and Ms. Shigeoka discussed the strategic and vision plans for BSD as well as the District Equity Policy. Bullying was addressed and, according to one student survey, fifty percent of students reported feeling bullied either at school and/or on their way to or on their way home from school. (It was acknowledged that bullying covers a wide category of behavior.) BSD has an anti-bullying policy and is working to prevent bullying, as it can lead to school violence as well as diminish a student's well-being at school. BSD is partnering with the City of Beaverton and Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District to hold equity seminars as a means of creating inclusive and inviting atmospheres at their respective facilities. Commissioner Masters asked about BSD's initiatives on human trafficking and was informed there are none. He was referred to BSD's Kevin Sutherland to help address this issue.

Alexis Ball, the City of Beaverton's Equity Outreach Coordinator, spoke about her efforts to make Beaverton a welcoming place for all people of Beaverton (including communities of color, immigrants and refugees). She discussed her role as the City Staff Liaison for the Diversity Advisory Board (DAB) and talked about the possibility of HRAC and DAB collaborating on projects in the future. She also spoke about DAB's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan and invited HRAC members to attend and give feedback on the plan at DAB's November 10, 2014, meeting as well as to hear a special speaker, Cameron Whitten.

Minutes of the October 1, 2014 HRAC meeting were reviewed and approved as written. Commissioner Chaichi moved to approve and Commissioner Petrov seconded. Passed.

Communications from the City Council Liaison: Councilor King reported that the marijuana ordinance for the City of Beaverton was approved and the Creekside Master Plan is likely to be approved in the next few weeks.

Communications from Police Chief Spalding: Chief Spalding updated the Commission on the trial of three individuals who were involved in a human trafficking case at Beaverton's Stars Cabaret. He reported that, in collaboration with the City of Beaverton, the Beaverton Police Department has issued Stars Cabaret a letter with the intent of closing it down due to the business being considered a nuisance. The safety measure on the November ballot not passing was discussed and Chief Spalding talked about possible next steps to be taken for future passage of the measure.

Communications from the City Staff Liaison: Ms. Ruiz reported on issues to consider regarding Facebook data sharing (archiving, public review of documents and quorum considerations if multiple people access a document at once). It was suggested that Commissioner Masters meet with Maja Haium about data sharing. Ms. Ruiz talked about a request to have a representative from the Turkish American Alliance speak at a future HRAC meeting. This was a communication sent to Randy Ealy, Beaverton's City Attorney. Ms. Ruiz shared ideas about setting up a volunteer based translating service, holding a function during which City Staff meet citizens and answer citizens' questions and possibly having a Cultural Conversation involving a panel of people with different cultural backgrounds who could explain differences between each of their cultures. A list of candidates to fill open positions on HRAC was sent to the Mayor for approval and will be reviewed on December 2, 2014.

Reports from meetings/events attended

Washington County Human Rights Council (WCHRC): Commissioner Chaichi reported the WCHRC is holding their annual poster contest and will vote on entries in November. They are continuing to fill positions on their Advisory Board and currently eleven candidates have accepted. The WCHRC is planning to read Human Rights proclamations at several Washington County City Council meetings in early December. Commissioner Chaichi also talked about the Venezuelan people who previously spoke at a WCHRC meeting about human rights violations and reported the individuals have been receiving threats as a result of their reports; WCHRC will act on their behalf as they are able. WCHRC is continuing to work on their Human Rights survey.

Project Updates

Homelessness Panel Review: The panel was well attended and an article appeared in the Beaverton Valley Times with another follow-up article to come soon. Commissioner Griffin talked about HomePlate Youth Services' holiday store and items on HomePlate's wish list.

ERA Resolution: Commissioner Petrov was at the City Council meeting on October 21st during which the ERA resolution was passed. Commissioner Petrov reported she was promised by the Mayor that a letter of acceptance of the resolution would be forthcoming.

Gaza/Israel letter: Commissioner Petrov volunteered to read the letter at the City Council's November 18th meeting. The presentation was scheduled to be read at a previous date but had to be delayed.

Human Trafficking: The posters from Seattle Against Slavery have begun to be posted at some local businesses. Commissioner Masters is creating a database of business that have been offered the poster and he plans to meet with the City Attorney about the posters. If a commissioner is interested in creating a cover letter to accompany posters to be sent out to business, they should contact Commissioner Masters for further information.

Human Rights Award: Commissioners Chaichi and Younce reviewed actions they took in order to publicize information about the award. One nomination was received and commissioners should consider whether the nominee fits the criteria for the award. Commissioners will vote on the nomination at December's meeting and there will be an award presentation and reception at a City Council meeting in January.

Creative Expression Contest (CEC): The announcement for the CEC will need to go into the January/February Your City publication. The CEC flyer needs to be updated before being sent to the school district. Commissioner Villarreal will help with translating materials into Spanish. The kick-off to the 2015 contest will be at the MLK Day event on January 18th.

December elections: HRAC by-laws state that elections are to be held in January; however, there are several drawbacks for elections being held in January instead of December (i.e. no commissioner/chairperson to run the January meeting, new commissioners having to vote for individuals they have no familiarity with, no transition with resigning previous Chairs). Therefore, elections have been held in December in the past several years. City Councilor King and City Staff Liaison Ruiz will discuss the possibility of getting this by-law changed.

Miscellaneous

Upcoming Speakers and Cultural Conversations: Possible speaker ideas include: Cameron Whitten, regarding his Portland Human Rights Project; a representative from the Turkish American Alliance; a multi-religious panel; and/or a Cultural Conversation involving a panel of people of different cultural backgrounds who could explain differences between each of their cultures.

During the upcoming December HRAC meeting, there will be a potluck dinner and commissioners are encouraged to bring something to contribute.

Early in 2015, Commissioners will be expected to attend the annual retreat. Time and location are to be determined.

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