

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

February 4, 2015

Present: Commissioners Jamal AbuSneineh, Farrah Chaichi, Cesar Maldonado, Anna Petrov, Sheri Struk, Juanita Villarreal; Alternate Commissioners Crystal Ashton, Eleazar Martinez, Manijeh Mehrnoosh and City Council Liaison Marc San Soucie, Ex-officio Police Chief Spalding, and City Staff Liaison Carmin Ruiz.

Guests: Social work students Adriana Leone, Thao Pham

Absent: Commissioner William Encina

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

Minutes of the January 7, 2015, HRAC meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. Commissioner Petrov moved to approve and Commissioner Villarreal seconded. Passed.

First order of business: Election of new chair and vice chair. City Liaison Ruiz announced that, as of January 6, 2015 there were two nominations for Chair – Jamal AbuSneineh and Farrah Chaichi; and Sheri Struk as Vice Chair. No other nominations were heard from the floor. Commissioner Petrov moved to call a vote. Vice Chair Struk seconded. Vote was called for Commissioner Chaichi, and for Commissioner AbuSneineh. The vote was by hand count. Farrah Chaichi received 3 votes, Jamal AbuSneineh received 4. The count showed Commissioner Jamal AbuSneineh elected as chair. Commissioner Chaichi moved to re-elect Vice Chair seconded by Commissioner Cesar Maldonado. Vote was unanimous, Commissioner Struk was re-elected Vice Chair.

Chairman AbuSneineh invited commissioners to briefly identify themselves and discuss why they care about human rights.

Communication from City Staff Liaison to the Commission: Carmin Ruiz passed around a roster for the commission. She shared a book, Strengths Based Leadership, and gave us each a copy. The book contains a questionnaire on management strengths, and we were asked to complete the questionnaire before the Retreat meeting. Ms Ruiz also discussed electronic communications, reminded us of our role and purpose, and limits of our position. She cautioned us about sending email “reply all.” We were reminded to familiarize ourselves with parliamentary procedures. She also plans to provide us with planning and structure and will provide us with individuals to help us in that area.

Communications from the City Council Liaison: Councilor Marc San Soucie also discussed the sensitivity of using emails. We were advised to do business in our meetings, but emails were acceptable for questions, communication and coordination of activities, but not for decision-making. He said that the Council appreciated the substance of the Human Rights award. He told us that the city will be working with the Diversity Advisory Board, and the Visioning Advisory Commission, with the goal of making life in Beaverton better for all.

Communication from the Ex-Officio Police Chief Spalding: Chief Spalding discussed the issues surrounding bias in policing and risks of racial profiling. The Beaverton Police are assembling a database of people being stopped by police, and will share this with us. We raised the question of how interactions with police should proceed in various situations. Several questions were asked by commissioners about this topic. Chief Spalding suggested a discussion at a HRAC meeting. Chair asked who might be interested and requested a response by show of hands. Several commissioners responded.

Reports from meetings/events attended:

Human Rights Award – Reception and Awards Presentation: The Human Rights Award was presented to the community service organization, Second Home, on Tuesday, January 13th at the regular City Council meeting. This will be the final year for this activity.

MLK Event (January 18, 2015 at Southminster Presbyterian Church): Vice Chair Sheri Struk and Commissioner Anna Petrov represented HRAC at the MLK event. They also announced the beginning of the 2105 Creative Expression Contest and introduced two of last year’s CEC winners (Grace Tran with her video and Kayla Rodriguez with her painting and its backstory).

Creative Expression Contest (CEC): The Creative Expression Contest is underway, flyers have been sent to public and private schools, and posted in libraries, stores, other areas where young persons and their families will see them.

Subcommittees for projects:

Human Trafficking: Commissioners Petrov and Chaichi will review this project to see how best to proceed. Commissioner Maldonado expressed his interest in this work. Brief discussion of whom to contact ensued, including the Washington County District Attorney, and possibly Washington County Sheriff's Department. The Beaverton Public Schools contact person is Kevin Southerland. We considered ways of furthering this project, of learning more, and how to contact victims, and the question of whether law enforcement should be involved, and to what degree.

Upcoming Cultural Conversations: Discussion was held on whom we would invite, pros and cons of different groups, ideas. One suggestion had been individuals of different religious groups. City Staff Liaison asked for more definition of this activity for our new members. Commissioner Struk gave feedback. Chair stressed flexibility and informality. Commissioner Ashton suggested discussion groups/panel discussions.

Miscellaneous

Citizen Complaint Issue: Multiple concerns discussed.

Scope of Work: Chair AbuSneineh raised issues regarding the scope of our work, specifically, that we need to focus on Beaverton. We should also tighten the definition of what we are doing.

Library Film Presentation: Private Violence, planned: This film will be concerned with domestic violence and will be presented on April 15, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We suggested inviting people from other cultural committees. The film is in English. Press kits are available.

Retreat: We were reminded of our upcoming Retreat on Friday, February 20, 2015. It was suggested that we could bring a snack if we chose. We were advised to have completed the Strength Based Leadership questionnaire in the week prior to the Retreat, and be prepared to use it in an activity.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Farrah Chaichi and seconded by Commissioner Juanita Villarreal. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

