

# Human Rights Advisory Commission

## Retreat Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 7th, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

**Present:** Commissioners Farrah Chaichi, Laurel Grasmick-Black, Tag Khuri, Marilyn McDonald, Cameron Monfared, Phil Nagel, Miranda Summer, Kossikan Yawo; Alternate Commissioners Moneer Afzal, Jerome Sibayan, Stephanie Somanchi; City Staff Liaisons Holly Thompson and Paolo Esteban

**Excused:** Tom Steiwer

**Visitors/Guests:** None

### **5:30 p.m. Welcome and greeting, introductions**

### **5:45 Overview of Mayor & City Council Priorities**

Holly Thompson shared the most recent draft of the Mayor and City Council Priorities, including housing, transportation, and community involvement. When finalized, full text of these priorities will be available on City Council website.

### **5:50 Review Purpose of HRAC & Reflective Exercise**

Paolo directed attendees to read bylaws and pick out key terms of the purpose and duties of the commission. Concepts that members highlighted included recommending action; raising awareness; listening to members of the community; avenues for informing the community of our existence and engaging in public functions; providing education to the community (closely related to the value of engaging in public action). Discussed challenges that may hinder promoting harmonious intergroup relations. Discussed limitations of the commission, with the example of the commission's work on the Black Lives Matter resolution, and connected back to the concept of taking action (especially leading to policy change).

### **6:10 Consensus Workshop Exercise**

Holly transitioned from bylaw discussion to consensus workshop to set commission priorities for 2018.

First discussion question: What are important areas (issues, topics) that the HRAC should focus on this year? Members provided suggestions and grouped them into categories: housing insecurity, human trafficking, abuse, discrimination, and good governance.

Second discussion question: What are the steps we can take as HRAC to work in these areas? Members wrote action items, then grouped these with each area of focus or under a "general tactics" umbrella. Specific tactics identified included educating and raising awareness; building partnerships; hosting conferences and seminars; pushing for education/training for city staff, volunteers, and police; reviewing civil rights complaints regularly and make recommendations; publicize process of filing a civil rights complaint; hosting/sponsoring community listening fora; researching policies, programs, and solutions related to housing and homelessness in comparable cities; advocate against policies that criminalize homelessness; obtaining data about vulnerable populations; acting as a bridge between various community organizations that work on homelessness and with people experiencing housing insecurity; actively partnering

with the police department; advocating for Black and Brown Lives Matter resolution; attending city council meetings and making specific recommendations; connecting with BPD liason on human trafficking; compiling data about human trafficking in Beaverton and publicizing statistics as appropriate; collaborating with other commissions and boards within the city.

Holly Thompson, Farrah Chaichi, Paolo Esteban, and Cameron Monfared will meet as a subcommittee to summarize and process proposed action items.

#### **7:25 Intermission**

#### **7:39 Status of Black and Brown Lives Matter Resolution**

Council President Lacey Beatty not present. Holly Thompson and Farrah Chaichi will continue to follow up with her and update commission.

#### **7:41 Review Dec/January Minutes**

Farrah Chaichi presented minutes for review and led approval. Minutes approved unanimously.

#### **7:42 Creative Expressions Contest**

Paolo Esteban handed out fliers for the Creative Expressions Contest and described roles of HRAC members; members will review entries in March and will select winners at the April meeting. Discussed ways to partner with the arts commission in the future and how to extend invitations to homeschooled students.

#### **7:45 Human Rights Council of Washington County Representative**

Farrah Chaichi described the Council's history, mission, and current actions/programs. Their focus is on community engagement and education. She has been our liason to the Council but might not be able to continue to do so, and sought someone interested in replacing her. Jerome Sibayan and Kossikan Yawo expressed interest Farrah will follow up with them.

#### **7:59 City Update**

Holly Thompson provided information from the city. The City of Beaverton is 125 years old this month. Food cartel is open. Upcoming events include interactive workshops related to Downtown design; property owners workshop; CERT classes. Family Promise of Beaverton is scheduled to open in March, City Council is providing some funding which comes with an antidiscrimination requirement; will rotate around various locations in the area. Also discussed meeting space, concerns were raised about accessibility to the public of various meeting spaces.

#### **8:11 New Business**

Phillip Nagel raised conflicts with the July meeting date, which is July 4th; decision made to move meeting to July 11th.

Farrah Chaichi shared information about Tim Boyle, a previous recipient of the Human Rights Award, who has published an op-ed criticizing the City of Portland's response to homelessness;

she raised concerns that having been a recipient of the Human Rights Award may imply that we endorse his current actions. Other members shared information about Tim Boyle's body of work in favor of human rights, and the overall complexity of trying to sort out motivations in general. Holly Thompson shared feedback she received from the City Attorney regarding possible actions the HRAC could take in response (which are limited). Discussed alternatives to rescinding the award. There was not strong enough interest to pursue any action at this time.

Farrah Chaichi shared information about a recent racial profiling incident in the city; there was a rally in response to the incident. Members shared concerns raised by the man profiled: this has happened to him repeatedly in the city of Beaverton, police implied that he did not belong in the area, he shared that his experience was extremely humiliating. Discussed the definition of and possible responses to racial profiling; how can we be a bridge between the police and the community as a whole?

### **8:31 Adjourn**

**NEXT HRAC Meeting – Wednesday, \_\_\_\_\_, 6:30 pm at Beaverton City Library Cathy Stanton Room**