

Human Rights Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Moneer Afzal, Farrah Chaichi, Marilyn McDonald, Cameron Monfared, Phil Nagel, Stephanie Somanchi, Miranda Summer, Tom Steiwer, and Kossikan Yawo. City staff Holly Thompson, Police Lieutenant Darren Fletchall, and Council Liaison Lacey Beaty.

Excused: Commissioners Laurel Grasmick-Black and Tag Khuri

Unexcused: Commissioner Jerome Sibayan

Visitors/Guests: None

6:30 p.m. Meeting Called to Order

6:32 p.m. March Minutes Approved

The March minutes were approved with minor grammatical changes.

6:35 p.m. City Announcements

Holly Thompson shared information about an upcoming opportunity to apply for Leadership Beaverton and information about a recent court case impacting public meetings law. Moving forward, all city boards and commissions need to be sure to publicly notice sub-committee meetings and post minutes from these meetings.

6:38 p.m. Commission Photo

Commissioners took part in their annual group photo.

6:50 p.m. City Update

Holly Thompson shared the May City Update. 1. What's on Tap with Mayor Doyle will be held Tuesday, May 22, at BG Food Cartel from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. 2. May 19 Public Works Week is being celebrated at the Beaverton Farmers Market. 3. The city's annual water quality report is available and the city's drinking water is safe. 4. The city was awarded a \$400,000 brownfield grant from the EPA to clean up the gas station next to the new public safety center. 5. Abigail Elder has been promoted and is transitioning from being the city's Library Director to the Mayor's Office Director. 6. The city's annual Budget Committee meetings are coming up on May 17, 21, and 24. HRAC was also provided an update on the DAB and their sub-committee work. HRAC discussed the upcoming Picnics in the Park and confirmed they wished to participate. Staff will develop interactive engagement ideas for the Commission to discuss in June.

7:00 p.m. Communications from Beaverton Police Department

Lieutenant Darren Fletchall provided information about upcoming BPD activities including Car Seat Clinics on May 19 and June 2, a Home Depot Event on June 5, and a Shred Event on June 9. He announced Citizens Academy was starting in September, they had 15 applications in and were taking more, and he passed around fliers. The current academy class graduates this month. Lt. Fletchall shared they had a successful Media Day this year at the Citizens Academy.

HRAC members asked questions of Lt. Fletchall about the recent prescription drug take back event and disposal of prescription drugs. They also asked about gun take back events and city practices related to receiving guns. HRAC also asked for information related to the recent Officer Involved Shooting. Lt. Fletchall explained it was an on-going investigation and the information he could share must be limited to information previously released by the department's PIO.

7:17 p.m. City Council Liaison Update

Councilor Lacey Beaty recapped the Brown and Black Lives Matter Resolution discussion at the City Council meeting the previous night and congratulated the HRAC for a great job testifying on behalf of the resolution and bringing it forward to Council. Councilor Beaty discussed the upcoming budget process and how seriously the Council works to analyze the budget and expressed her desire to not raise taxes. She suggested HRAC members pay attention to questions from Councilors related to the budget.

7:30 p.m. City Council Meeting Debrief and Other Recent Meetings Attended

HRAC members and Councilor Beaty discussed the public hearing held the night before at the City Council related to a proposed ordinance to ban overnight camping in the public right-of-way. Several HRAC members testified on the ordinance and shared their experience and observations from the meeting. Commission members noted how many youth participated, with students from both Sunset High School and Beaverton High School speaking against the ordinance. HRAC members discussed next steps in the process, including the upcoming dates for the reading of the ordinance, scheduled for June 5 and June 12.

HRAC members who attended the April 24, 2018, City Council meeting on the Budget gave a short recap of that meeting sharing the library hours would be synchronized between the two locations, leading to a reduction in hours at the main library. It was also noted the budget meetings are very technical and can be challenging to follow.

7:55 pm Letter Shared

HRAC member Tom Steiwer read a letter from three teachers at Hiteon Elementary School that was sent to Beaverton Police Chief Jim Monger. The letter described an incident at a recent active shooter training at Hiteon in which Beaverton school resource officers and teachers collaborated on the training. During the day, an officer made a comment about a participant in a training video that many of the participants found offensive. Tom wanted to bring the incident to the HRAC's attention, as well as the response from the Beaverton Police Department, which included an apology from the officer to the Superintendent. It was noted the teachers involved that day were hoping for a more direct apology and opportunity to meet with the officer to discuss the issue. Councilor Beaty expressed her disappointment for the comment that was shared and offered to research the incident and bring back information to the HRAC.

8:10 pm Creative Expressions Contest Debrief

HRAC members wished to express their appreciation to Paolo Esteban who they felt did a fantastic job helping to organize and support the CEC contest. The Commission reviewed a document Paolo prepared outlining the process for holding the CEC contest from initiation, advertising, and organizing submissions for review by the Commission. The Commission decided moving forward it would be best to break the elementary school level down to two categories, K-2 and 3-5, noting it wasn't ideal to have all grades competing against each other. The Commission also noted we needed to work next year to get CEC contest information past the school offices, into the hands of teachers. The Commission recommended developing a strategy to reach arts teachers directly. Commissioners noted the reception was well done.

8:20 pm Human Rights in the News

Commission members discussed the recent news story regarding the resignation of the deputy superintendent over a tweet that he retweeted from his personal twitter account that did not reflect the school district's values. Staff also reminded Commissioners, that by nature of their appointment to the HRAC, they are public officials.

8:28 pm Sub-Committee Update

Holly provided a brief update that the Discrimination Sub-Committee would be working with CDD staff on a Housing Open House (title TBD), to be planned for October. The Good Governance Sub-Committee will be working with the city's Human Resources Department on an annual civil rights review process, scoping for this project cannot begin until the city is through the union contract negotiation process because staff do not have the capacity to begin this project yet.

8:30 pm Meeting Adjourned

NEXT HRAC Meeting – Wednesday, June 6, 2018, 6:30 pm at Beaverton City Library Cathy Stanton Room