

Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Thursday, August 27, 2015

Meeting called to order at 5:20 p.m.

Present: Gabriel, Eric, Judy, Donna, Peggy, Kathie

- I. Approval of last month's minutes: Peggy made a motion to accept; Gabriel seconded, all in favor.
- II. Executive Director's Report

Eric did two on-line seminars:

1) Legal Action Center – rights of people with H.I.V. (Outside of NYC, SC has the highest per capita rate of HIV, and we have very little service here for HIV patients. Eric has been trying to get them to provide services here, but they only do NYC.) Clinic here (ARCS) provides medical services. Eric will speak to them about a staff member coming to a HRC meeting.

2) Federal Immigration Office (immigration and employment) . This seminar provided information about immigration issues for employers and how they can be compliant with the law.

- III. Executive Committee Report
 - A) New commissioner: Donna Schick. Eric will invite Dan Briggs to come next month to swear in Donna and Peggy.
 - B) Proposal that we start the meeting 15 minutes later, at 5:30. Donna made a motion; Kathie seconded; all in favor.
 - C) Resume for Lorraine Lopez, who met with the Executive Committee for an interview. Our recommendation to appoint here has gone to AnnMarie, and it will be submitted at the Personnel Committee (1st week of September).
 - D) Facilitator training for school program: We will resend a letter to schools inviting them to participate in the anti-bullying program. Judy and Kathie will tweak the letter to include the fact that we will have facilitators trained by a nationally-known expert in the field (Jack Zaccara). Judy sent emails to people who were interested in being in the training. [Donna mentioned that we should find out about finger-printing and background checks – for anyone who is working with kids.] Eric will check with SC to find out if this is required for facilitators who go into the classrooms. Judy asked people to respond by Sept. 11. Kathie and Judy will try to get on WJFF to discuss this training and the anti-bullying program.

- E) Judy hasn't heard anything more about Everyday Democracy grant application with the County.
- IV. Issues Committee: Two complaints
 - A) Tri-Valley School District – Cheerleading coach complained, said young women were subjected to harassment by male athletes. She felt she was unfairly discriminated against by the Department head.
 - B) Sullivan Correctional Facility – an inmate was killed; 3 CO's were injured. The complainant claims the abuse is going on systematically and that it has happened to him. Eric explained the process to him (law library, legal services).
- V. Outreach Committee (Donna has now joined)
 - A) Spanish Heritage Month honorees are:
 - a. Sandra Nava
 - b. Carmen Rue
 - c. Viviana Magill

Presentation of the plaques will be October 14; there will be a party afterward. Kathie will write a press release (get list of pubs from Chet)
 - B) The Outreach Committee will propose a plan for reaching out to the Black community for February (African-American History Month).
 - C) Tenants' Rights – Section 8 Forum – November 5 – 6 to 8 p.m.
Jaime Samarel – Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
Judy Korley – Monticello Housing Authority
- VI. Old Business
 - Film Viewing – "Race" – Sept. 19 at Gabriel's house 6 p.m.
- VII. New Business
 - Anti-Semitic incident in Sackett Lake, a weekender's home was painted with anti-Semitic slurs. Judy felt that the HRC should respond with an editorial in the paper, and we all agreed. Judy said she would write it up and send to us for our input.
- VIII. Public Participation – no visitors this month
- IX. Meeting was adjourned at 6:25.