

Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Thursday, September 24, 2015

Present: Judy, Roland, Donna, Lorraine, Sam, Gabriel, Peggy, Kathie

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

- I. Swearing-in Ceremony for new commissioners by County Clerk Dan Briggs
Peggy Johansen
Donna Schick
Lorrain Lopez

- II. Approval of last month's minutes: Donna made a motion; _____ seconded; all in favor; minutes are approved.

- III. Executive Director's Report
 - A) B.O.C.E.S. Open House, September 10. Yearly event, showcase of County Health Services. Eric left flyers for Tenants' Rights Forum, Nov. 5, 2015.
 - B) ARCS has been changed to HVCS (Hudson Valley Community Service); questionable how much, if any, hiv/aids treatment is being provided.
 - C) Clarification of regulations regarding volunteers in the school: facilitators must have background checks if there are to be more than **four** meetings with students, or if the meeting is on an **individual level**.

- IV. Executive Committee Report
 - A) Letter of resignation received from Chet Carlin
 - B) Introduction of David Chavkin, applicant for new commission vacancy
 - C) Introducing new commissioner, Lorraine Lopez
 - D) Film series, "Race," viewed last week by several commissioners; first two parts were compelling and spurred much discussion.
 - E) Grant for Everyday Democracy: "income inequality" – We got the grant, but we need to change the timeline. Carolyn Abdullah suggested an orientation of coalition member (Fed of Homeless, CACHE, DA's office, Workforce Development, Renaissance) – but members can be individuals as well as agencies. Judy will set an organizational meeting sometime next week.
 - F) Letters went out to school districts offering our anti-bullying program.

- 1) Judy has a meeting at Eldred at 2 p.m. They are interested in an assembly, but Judy will discuss this with them before committing. She also heard from Liberty, and 3 schools in Monticello are interested.
- 2) Seven people can do the training on 10/24 or 10/31. We need to decide on a date asap.
- 3) Peggy found a venue for the training: Church of LDS on Richardson Ave in Monticello.
- 4) Signups? Laura Quigley, Rita (?), Desmond (Sandy Oxford's son), Sierra Smith, Kathie, Judy, Lorraine, Peggy, Matt M.

V. Issues Committee Report – 3 complaints

- A) An African-American male, addressed by doctor's office staff by first name, although white patients were addressed by last names, in spite of his requests. Doctor took his assistant's side and asked the patient to leave, threatened him with police, and was issued a "no trespass" order.
- B) An African-American gay male, working at a daycare. The director made derogatory statements to him. The owner wouldn't support the worker, but offered him a separation agreement with pay. The worker filed a complaint.
- C) An inmate in the jail about his treatment. Eric provided paperwork for a civil rights discrimination complaint in Federal court. His complaint was accepted.
- D) Sam corrected a misunderstanding and clarified that he cannot be a liaison between inmates and the HRC.

VI. Outreach Committee

- A) Hispanic Heritage Month Award, October 15, 2015. Press release was published by the Catskill Chronicle, but to our knowledge, not by any other publications. We should resend the press release. Donna suggested adding Barbara Bedell (THR) to our list.
- B) Tenants' Rights Forum, November 5, 2015. Gabriel suggested that we call 30-40 people on the Section 8 waiting list to invite them to the forum. Judy (Section 8) has the list. We still have to publicize in Spanish and English via press release and flyers.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

- A) Facebook! Judy spoke to Loren Green, IT Manager, who said the County is looking at writing a policy for FB and invited us to meet, give our input. No meeting scheduled yet.

IX. David has been looking for the HRC online, and is surprised at how invisible the HRC is. Sam and Lorraine think that it is an important educational function that should be developed.

X. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

If there are any corrections or additions, please let me know.
Thanks, Kathie