

Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Thursday, May 7, 2015

Present: Judy, Roland, Paul, Peggy, Sam, Kathie, Gabriel, Eric

Meeting called to order at 5:15 p.m.

- I. Approval of last month's minutes – Last month's meeting was not a quorum, so minutes cannot be approved.
- II. Executive Director's Report – The EOC is doing a training: federal guidelines regarding employment and discrimination. Eric would like to go, but it is expensive, and he is not sure we'll have the money. Eric will suggest it to the Personnel Committee and offer to go if the County will pay for it (\$600). Discussion: Should the HRC take over the function of fielding complaints and investigating them? As it stands now, the personnel officer takes complaints and refers them back to the head of the department from which the complaint originated. We tried to do this once before, but the Legislature wasn't willing to relinquish this. Sam MAM to make another attempt for the HRC to act as the EEO. Paul seconded. First step: speak to someone on Personnel Committee (i.e. Alan Sorenson), meet privately at first; and speak to Linda Levine to see how she feels about it.
- III. Executive Committee Report – E.C. met May 6 – discussed filling Catherine's position. Two resumes have been submitted. We will interview both and forward our recommendation to the Legislature.
- IV. Issues Committee Report: two complaints
 - 1) By a woman renting an apartment on Section 8. She gave 30 days notice to the landlord, but the landlord refused to return her security. She had to take him to court, and then she filed a complaint with Eric.
 - 2) By an African-American gay woman. She went into a bar in Rock Hill and was told right away that she had to leave. She was offended and embarrassed that the owner wouldn't serve her and accused her of being a trouble-maker. She filed a complaint and has also filed a lawsuit.
- V. Outreach Committee Report
 - 1) Eileen Haworth Weil Scholarship Brunch (4/26) was very successful. Over 100 people attended. Many people commented that our scholarship winner was a very impressive young man.

- 2) Judy has submitted the grant application for money for Everyday Democracy. We should hear by the end of May.
- VI. Old Business – We need to make a plan for watching the movie on the origins of racism.
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Public Comment: Donna Schick attended. She said that the Everyday Democracy proposal sounds very interesting.
- IX. Annual Meeting: a motion was made to accept this slate; it was seconded and approved.

Nominations:

- Kathie – Secretary
- Peggy – Treasurer
- Judy – Chairperson
- Gabriel – Vice chair

Committees:

- Outreach – Paul & Gabriel (co-chairs); Chet, Kathie, Judy
- Issues – Roland (chair); Sam

Paper of Record: Sullivan County Democrat

Meetings: A motion was made to change the meeting to the last Thursday of the month (so it is only one week until the Personnel Meeting). Seconded and approved. Next meeting, May 28 (to be confirmed)

- X. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Please let me know if you see anything that needs to be added or corrected.
Thank you, Kathie