

Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
Thursday, June 23, 2016

Present: Judy Balaban, Isaac Diebboll, Peggy Johansen, Bill Liblick, Gabriel Bertonazzi, Lorraine Lopez, Kathie Aberman, Donna Schick

Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m.

- I. Approval of minutes from last meeting: Isaac made a motion, Bill seconded; all approved

III. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Change in meeting schedule: 3rd Thursday is not good for everyone. Second Thursday is okay with everyone present. Lorraine will confirm with Sam and Roland that the 2nd Thursday is okay. Then she will notify the newspaper of record about the change.
2. Letter to the Editor re: the shooting in Orlando – Judy wrote a short piece which was approved by all commissioners and send in to the paper.
3. Judy needs to provide the towns of all commissioners to the County.
4. By-laws are still at the County attorney's desk. One sentence that was added by the County is being questioned, and Judy still doesn't have an answer to why it was added. She will meet with Laurie Burch again soon.

B. Issues Committee – see Director's Report: Complaints

C. Outreach Committee

1. Dialogue2Change Report (Isaac Diebboll)
 - D2C has created connections between people who feel empowered to connect with the government; lots of optimistic energy
 - D2C groups that continue will still maintain connection with HRC, although any further actions they take will be independent. The outcome is to create a safe space that is open to all who want to come and share. All groups will have a liaison with the HRC.
 - Plans for the Big Event, July 16, are proceeding with a settled venue and invitations going out.
 - Will we have another D2C? We will bring that to the Strategic Planning session in September.

2. Orthodox/Hasidic Forum (Bill Liblick), June 20, was very well attended and very successful. Positive energy. Attendees included Depts. of Labor and Justice, Renaissance and many others. People really seemed to want to work together. Local papers all covered the event. A forum on Thunder Radio beforehand was also positive and informative to the community. Outcome of the forum: a committee will be formed separate from the HRC. Anyone with a complaint now has a conduit for resolving a problem. One speaker (a developer) came up with a plan for education and open communication with and within the summer community.
- II. Executive Director's Report
 - A. Complaints – no new complaints; Lorraine is working to resolve existing issues.
 - B. Healthy Sullivan is meeting every two weeks. Currently, they are asset mapping for the County, connecting with what issues (re: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) are being addressed and what are the gaps.
 - C. Met today with Jody Miller, Director of HR/EEO of Dutchess County.
 - D. Attended the EOE training last week in NYC; Lorraine feels that the training was very helpful and informative.
 - III. Public Comment – Allen Weir (CPS at DSS) and Marty Colavito (Catholic Charities, D2C) attended. Allen introduced himself by providing some history: he has worked with immigrant families that were struggling, especially with their children's schools. He and co-workers started an organization called the Latino Alliance (Oct. 2014), went to the communities and invited everyone who was interested. They met, provided childcare and refreshments. The people who came were eager to have an organization that would help them. Although the initial feedback **online** was negative, the Latino Alliance held many forums, helped families with DSS, Ideal Snacks, quelled some of the apprehension about "authorities, and brought different parts of the Latino community together. The Hispanic Heritage Festival on July 17 is a "coming out" party for the Latino Alliance. All food is free, vendor tables are free, a dance group will provide demonstrations, and there will be activities for children. Many human services will be there, including the HRC.
- V. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

#