

Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Thursday, March 24, 2016

Present: Donna Schick, Lorraine Lopez, Bill Liblick, Judy Balaban, Kathie Aberman (via Skype), Gabriel Bertonazzi

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

Welcome and congratulations to Lorraine Lopez as new Executive Director!

- I. Approval of last month's minutes: Minutes should be changed to reflect Bill's comments regarding his appointment. Also, after meeting with Luis, Gabriel is not an "Interim Director," but a commissioner volunteering. We all appreciate Gabriel's effort during this time of no Executive Director. Bill made a motion to accept minutes; Donna seconded. All approved.

- II. Executive Committee Report
 - A. The By-laws were not approved by resolution of the Legislature, although they were submitted to the County. Peggy, Lorraine and Judy read the By-laws; Judy met with the County attorney. Before the legislative vote, the commissioners will review the by-laws, and then Luis Alvarez will receive them for review. In the interim, there is another commissioner vacancy. The legislature will appoint the next commissioner. Luis Alvarez will review the applications for Executive Director (that had been posted for a month) to see if any of them are interested in being a commissioner. Kathie asked, via Skype, why the Legislature had overturned the precedent in appointing Bill Liblick without input

from the Commission, and why they were going to continue that action in appointing the next Commissioner. There was discussion regarding the way in which Commissioners were chosen and the necessity of having approved by-laws and following the correct procedure.

- B. Vacancy on the HRC: Judy will request commissioners' suggestions/thoughts about the candidates (for Executive Director) to send to Ann Marie, who will submit to Luis for his input. Some applicants expressed interest in applying for the commissioner's position. Judy will let the commissioners know of individuals who might be interested. Judy will check with Luis to see to whom he is reaching out.

III. Executive Director's Report

- A. Lorraine attended protests at Murray's to investigate possible human rights complaints.
- B. Martinez (in NYC State Division of Human Rights) suggested that Lorraine attend training at EEOC office. Lynda Levine is interested in doing the training together. Lorraine will check on it.
- C. The individual who reached out to Sam spoke with Lorraine. She will follow up with questions regarding why Sullivan County is living in New York? Contact Legal Aid (Joel Proyect and Tim Havass). What is the case about?

IV. Outreach Committee

- A. Eileen Haworth Weil Scholarship Brunch
 - 1. Honorees will be Tim Havaas, Stuart Hirsch and Penny Medina. Aileen Gunther will be the keynote speaker.
 - 2. Lisa Wiles (Superintendent of Ellenville Schools and on the committee) will create SAVE the DATE flyer. The Ellenville School District will provide music.
 - 3. We will give Eric a plaque of appreciation.
 - 4. Andy Weil is the MC, and Lorraine will speak, as the new E.D.
 - 5. Student interviews are set for April 18.

- B. Dialogue2Change
 - 1. New form developed by Peggy is online for anyone interested in participating.
 - 2. Marty Colavito is canvassing
 - 3. We have an opportunity to speak at the Lions Club.
 - 4. Focus now is to get dates for the dialogues.
 - 5. Next Thurs, 5 p.m. Steering Committee Meeting.

- C. Forums
 - 1. Bill want to meet to discuss "Summer Orthodox Committee" the goal of creating respect and mutual understanding, a moderated discussion that will include the general public. Lorraine will set something up.
 - 2. Donna suggested including or setting up a forum for the Muslim community also.

- D. May is HRC's annual organizational meeting at which committees and chairs are appointed.
 - 1. Bill suggested creating press releases for the HRC's various events and activities, such as the Dialogues, forums, etc.

2. The HRC's website is alive with monthly minutes being posted. The Dialogue2Change and Facebook link have been added. There needs to be more information posted on the website.

V. Public Comment – no public participation

VI. Adjournment

Donna made a motion to adjourn; Bill seconded. All approved.
Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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