

Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
January 12, 2017

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

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

- I. Approval of last month's minutes – Bill made a motion; Roland seconded; all approved.
- II. Director's Report
 - A. Complaints – two ongoing
 1. A county employee whose complaint is not being allowed to speak Spanish at work. Luis is aware and is okay with this being handled by the HRC.
 2. An employee of a local company complains about racial discrimination by a co-worker, and that the company did not take any action when a complaint was made.
 - B. Collaborating Agencies: Lorraine is now also networking with Sullivan Renaissance, Sullivan 180 and NYCLU.
 - C. Police-Community Forum – Lorraine has to send out questions to participants for a survey.

Along these lines, on Feb. 1, in Nyack, Lorraine will be attending a police/community workshop called "A Different Kind of Police Hearing."
 - D. Lorraine has arranged for a guest speaker about immigration at the Feb. 9 HRC meeting. She will also arrange to invite the public.
 - E. Allen Weir, (Latino Alliance) is sponsoring a forum, "Know Your Rights" for January 21 at South Fallsburg Community Center, 11:30 a.m.

III. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Met January 5. Monthly meetings do need to be announced and open to the public. They will be posted on the website and held in the HRC office.
2. Commissioner Position – One application has been received. Her letter and resume have been distributed to all commissioners. Peggy knows another person who will be applying. Both will be invited for interviews before the next HRC meeting on Feb. 9, at 5:00 p.m. Please, all commissioners submit questions for the interview.
3. Hospitality Training – Evadne Gianinni will come to the next HRC meeting to share her experiences while working in her green hospitality business in Santa Fe, NM. She sees much commonality with Santa Fe and Sullivan County and will talk about the success she has seen in integrating diversity in Santa Fe.
4. Undoing Racism Workshop – Lorraine is looking into bringing this to Sullivan County. (It has been presented in Rockland County annually for many years.) Luis seems open to this. Questions to consider: Whom would we invite? Who will pay? (It is expensive.) If we look for the County to pay for it, will that have an impact on our request for funding for D2C? We should explore funding through local organizations.
5. Policies and Procedures – Judy and Lorraine reviewed with Cheryl McCausland and Luis. Other than the term limit issue, it is fundamentally the same. It appears that the Legislature is placing a cap of two terms for commissioners. It will be brought up at the next Executive Committee meeting of the Legislature on 1/19 at 11:30 a.m. All commissioners are welcome to

attend for clarification. Lorraine, Judy and Kathie are planning to be there.

B. Outreach Committee

1. Presentation at Chase School to 5th grade about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, set for 1/18 at 9:30. (It has since been postponed and we are waiting for a new date to be set.)
2. An Outreach Committee meeting needs to be scheduled to begin planning for a combined forum for all protected classes (possibly around the Dec. 10 observation of Universal Declaration of Human Rights).
3. Kathie is preparing an application for a “Neighborhood Grant” from Sullivan Renaissance, to be used to begin building a network that would support education and information about refugee resettlement in Sullivan County.

IV. Public Comment

Dan McCormick came to listen, hear more about what is happening in the County. He commented that he was glad to hear that we are talking about doing an observation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Dec. 10. There were observations for many years, but not for the past few. He mentioned that the Mediation Office (next to HRC) is looking for more mediators, and that there will be a training in March. (Lorraine will ask about this.)

V. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.