

Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 1, 2014

Meeting called to order at 5:20 P.M. **Present:** Roland Ward, Chet Atkins, Judy Balaban, Eric Monroe, Gabriel Bertonazzi, Katherine Iral, Kathie Aberman **Absent:** Paul Austin, Sam Encarnacion

A quorum of the Board was present.

- I. Approval of April, 2014 minutes – The minutes cannot be located.
- II. Executive Director’s Report – Nothing new to report
- III. Executive Committee’s Report

A) Annual Meeting

- Election of Executive Committee: Nominations & Voting
 - Secretary: Kathie [Chet nominated; Roland 2nd]
 - Chair: Judy [Chet nominated; Gabriel 2nd]
 - Treasurer: Katherine [Kathie nominated; Judy 2nd]
 - Co-chair: Gabriel [Kathie nominated; Judy 2nd]
 - All nominees unanimously approved.
- Committee Chair Appointments
 - Outreach Committee: Paul & Gabriel, Co-chairs [Chet, Judy, Kathie & Eric members]
 - Issues Committee: Roland, Chair [Katherine, Eric members]
- Commission Calendar: First Thursday of the month, 5:15 p.m. [Eric has printed and distributed calendar to all Board members]
- *Sullivan County Democrat* is the Commission newspaper of record.

B) Anti-bullying program in local schools

- Five schools have responded
- Rutherford School is a positive date (May 22 – four 5th grades)
- Tri-Valley (Judy & Same have an apt. 5/5 with principal)
- Sullivan West, Cook Elementary, & Fallsburg have also contacted us and Judy is pursuing.

C) Open dialogue forum on racism

Can we hold forums that will host open discussions on topics that are complex?

Discussion: Is it appropriate for our county HRC to cover national issues? / It will

depend on how the issue is approached. / “Studying Democracy” – organization that could help with this. Judy will find link and share. / We will begin to discuss how we will start to formulate a plan.

IV. Issues Committee Report

- SCCC – Complaint from a student who was arrested after an altercation, and then terminated, apparently without due process. The student was not allowed to complete classes, was given an F for everything. Also, an attorney seems to have been stringing the student along for more money. Complaint is being filed based on how this decision was made, without a trial, etc.

V. Outreach Committee Report

- Tenant’s Rights Forum (June) – When and where? Katherine will talk to Charles Davis about setting this up in Fallsburg. Eric will check with the church (Fallsburg?) and Jamie Sameral.

VI. Old Business –

- Eileen Haworth Weil Scholarship Brunch was a great success! Judy will make an appointment for us to meet with the person who can give us guidance on setting up a foundation.
- Kathie will write a letter to Rachel Ann Walker, the student who did not win the award, and ask her if she’d like to come to a HRC meeting.
- The Committee needs to have a meeting to wrap up all the loose ends from the event.
- Words to remember: “We weren’t preaching to the choir; we were boosting the troops!”
- Kathie will send Paul’s speech to Katherine, Gabriel and Judy.

VII. New Business

- Roland will invite a philanthropist
- Chet will call Paul to set up and Outreach Committee meeting asap
- Katherine will talk to the church about dates
- Katherine was sworn in

VIII. Public Comment – No public comment

IX. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 P.M. Respectfully submitted by Kathie Aberman, Secretary. Please let me know if there are any errors, or any information missed. Thank you.