

Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Thursday, July 23, 2015

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

Present: Eric, Chet, Gabriel, Judy, Peggy Roland, Sam and Kathie

- I. Approval of the last meeting's minutes (May 7, 2015) – Peggy made a motion to approve, Gabriel seconded, all in favor.

- II. Executive Director's Report
 - A) Paul's letter of resignation has been forwarded to the Legislature, and an announcement has been made on the website.

 - B) WJFF interview – Kathie and Judy volunteered to be interviewed about the HRC.

 - C) 2016 HRC budget has been submitted. Judy has a meeting set up with a person who will do trainings for facilitators of the school programs. (Kathie suggested that we resend the letter to the schools informing them of our anti-bullying program.) We have \$1500 in our budget for training, which we must use before the end of the year. We cannot hold it over for next year in the hope that we will get the grant for Everyday Democracy, so we will use it to expand our school program: facilitators and more materials.

 - D) Ethics Form – all Commissioners have signed it and turned them in.

- III. Executive Committee's Report
 - A) Donna Schick's appointment – We are hoping that it will be finalized at the next Personnel Committee meeting. The Legislature has asked us to be at this next meeting to give input (August 6). Kathie and Eric will go.

 - B) Approval of By-Laws – Changes
 - 1) Recommendations for new commissioners will be sent to the Legislature with that candidate's resume only.
 - 2) Meetings will now be held on the 4th Thursday of the month (so we can attend the Personnel Committee meeting the following week, if needed).
 - 3) Article 10: Amendment may be made by a 2/3 vote of the commissioners present.

Kathie made a motion that the changes be approved; Chet seconded; all in favor, and changes are approved.

- C) Everyday Democracy grant proposal – We did not get the grant, but were invited to re-submit it. Feedback was that the Committee was interested, but concerned about specific outcomes. Judy and Kathie brainstormed changes and will finalize it tomorrow for resubmission.
- IV. Issues Committee Report – While there are no new complaints, Eric discussed how he gets many complaints from the jail, but usually refers them to other resources. [Many complaints are not credible, so Eric explains lack of jurisdiction/validity and deflects the complaint to other avenues.] Also, Eric tells the complainants to follow the correct process, fill out forms, etc. Sam offered to be a liaison in jail.
- V. Outreach Committee’s Report – With the resignation of Paul, Gabriel is now in charge of this committee. He will arrange a time/date for a committee meeting to begin working on outreach for the Fall.
- VI. Old Business – We need to set a date to get together and watch the film on racism. All agreed on Saturday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m. Place (Judy’s house, Kathie’s house, or Gabriel’s office) to be decided.
- VII. New Business –
 - A) After Judy speaks to the trainer, we need to set a date (after September 13) for the training.
 - B) In Orange County, there is a very active program on mental health and diversity. Next program is Thursday, October 1 from 1 – 4 p.m. Free! (At the Newburgh Jewish Community Center, 290 North St., Newburgh) Pre-registration is required: mdumas@mhaorangenyc.com or 342-2400 X246
- VIII. Public Comment – no members of the public in attendance.
- IX. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.