

**Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Thursday, September 8, 2016**

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

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

- I. Approval of minutes from last meeting
We did not have a quorum for the August meeting, so we could not approve the July, 2016 minutes. Thus, this approval is for the 7/16 minutes: Donna made a motion to approve; Bill seconded; all in favor.

The notes from the August meeting are not officially minutes, and therefore, do not require approval.

- II. Director's Report
 - A. Issues
 1. New issue: A young woman who had issues with courts, housing and DFS. Lorraine gave her the information about what to do, but she hasn't returned yet.
 2. Old cases: Complainants have not followed up, or they have moved on. Discussion: Should Lorraine give people a call if they don't get back to her? We agreed that calling to check in would be a good idea.
 - B. Budget: Lorraine met with Josh and he seemed to think that the additions that Lorraine made for additional training, conferences and hours were fine. Still needs to be approved by the Legislature.
 - C. Lorraine attended a luncheon with other people concerned with social justice given by Aileen Gunther.
 - D. Darin Wiseman invited Lorraine and others from the community to his show on WJFF to talk about immigration. September 14 at 7:00 p.m.
 - E. BOCES Adult Ed invited Lorraine to come to the Open House to share HRC and network with other agencies.
 - F. Hispanic Heritage Garden Day, September 16 in S. Fallsburg from 4:00-6:00. We will have a table.

- G. Hispanic Heritage Month begins September 15 to October 15. On September 15, there will be a music/dance performance in the lobby of the Government Center at 12:30 p.m. On October 20, the HRC will present awards to outstanding members of the Hispanic Community in Sullivan County. Lorraine will speak, and we will all try to be there!
- H. Strategic Planning Meeting: September 12 from 6 – 8 p.m. At Kathie's house, facilitated by Helen Budrock

III. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Did not meet this month. However, the “by-law” issue is still not resolved because Luis asked the Commission to approve a new procedure for appointing new members. The “by-laws” will henceforth be referred to as “Policies and Procedures.” The new procedure will be: candidates for the Commission will submit a resume and will be interviewed by the full Commission (instead of by the Executive Committee) and recommendations will be forwarded to the Legislature for approval. A term will consist of a 3-year period, and a Commissioner's term may be renewed at the end of that term. All Commissioners present agreed to this policy.

B. Outreach Committee

1. The Committee met on August 31 to begin work on the agenda for the Forum: Strengthening the Relationship Between Law Enforcement and the Community. There will be a larger planning meeting with all stakeholders on September 13 in the Legislative Hearing Room from 5:15 – 6:15 to obtain input and feedback from all in preparation for the Forum on October 29.
2. Lorraine sent out an invitation to all school districts offering to support them in their anti-bullying efforts. She has not heard back from anyone yet. However, Judy heard from two people who are interested in participating with our anti-bullying program. Donna mentioned that the Lion's Club has a well-developed anti-bullying program, and that perhaps we should contact them.
3. The D2C County Wide Action Forum is being planned for September 19 in the Legislative Hearing Room to address four issues that were brought up for action by the Dialogues. They are: Mentoring, Hours Exchange, Transportation, and Community Resources.

4. An Hours Exchange presentation by Gloria Bonelli is scheduled for October 20 at the Monticello Library, 5:45 – 7:30 p.m.
5. Judy's report on the NYS Mentoring Program: four organizations (Bethel Woods, Sullivan Renaissance, Boys & Girls Clubs, Cornell Cooperative Extension) will be providing the first mentors for this pilot program. They will work with 6-8th graders. They will be able to take time from their jobs without losing pay. January 1 is the anticipated beginning date. The NYS Mentoring Program will do the screening, fingerprinting and training of all mentors, as well as define the structure within which the mentors will work.
6. Bill reported that he Orthodox/Year-round Community will be meeting a third time to work on resolving issues that arose during the summer.
7. Isaac distributed the referral cards that SALT will be using.

IV. Public Comment: no visitors tonight

V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.