

Sullivan County Human Rights Commission  
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting  
Thursday, September 4, 2014

Present: Paul Austin, Peggy Johansen, Sam Encarnacion, Katherine Iral, Gabriel Bertonazzi, Eric Monroe, Judy Balaban, Kathie Aberman

Meeting called to order at 5:25 p.m.

- I. Approval of last month's minutes (Gabriel moved; Paul seconded; minutes unanimously approved as amended)
- II. Executive Director's Report
  - A. Attended August 21, BOCES Open House for various agencies and services available in Sullivan County.
  - B. August 25 YNN interview at Monticello Village Board Meeting – Eric was interviewed to comment on the situation with Mayor Jenkins. Discussions with the D.A. resulted in setting up the forum set for Sept. 16 (see V. A below)
  - C. Gary Silverman-Monticello Middle School back-to-school interview – a teacher, referred by Aileen Gunther, interviewed students about why it's important to do well in school, and made a video to show in schools. (Somehow, I lost the thread here of what is its relevance to the HRC, specifically. Was Eric involved?)
  - D. August 25, Eric met with district attorney about the student suspended out of SCCC in previous complaint and Mayor of Monticello.
  - E. August 26 – telephone interview with Times-Herald Record (about?)
  - F. August 28 – Eric spoke at Ellenville NAACP rally on police violence and excessive use of force (Kathie also attended)
- III. Executive Committee Report
  - A. Kathie, Peggy, Judy and Sam met to talk about planning our anti-bias program for the schools, and recruiting and training of people (including students) to facilitate the workshops.
    - Sam spoke to Prof. Dunning (sociology SCCC) about setting up an internship in facilitation for a student. Prof. Dunning is

very interested, needs a little time for students to settle in. Sam will get back to him.

- Peggy has found two people who are interested.
- Judy sent emails out to six schools. Two responses:
  - Tri-Valley invited HRC to attend the kickoff of the OLVEUS Program Oct. 17.
  - The other will get back
  - Judy will contact Joe Prestiani at Rutherford if she doesn't hear from him.

IV. Issues Committee Report

A. Two complaints against the poultry plant. Eric will interview them both.

B. Discussion about recognizing people for Hispanic Heritage Month. Do we want to do this every month? For every group? Some members felt that it was too big a task, with not enough HRC member input, to commit to taking on. Others felt that we don't have to take it on as a HRC initiative, but could leave it to community members for their input. Ultimately, we decided to start with the Hispanic Heritage Month, and send a letter to the community-at-large asking for input about who has gone above and beyond in helping in the community. We voted to honor Luis Alvarez, Yamaris Vera, and Nubia Quineros (based on requests for input from the Hispanic community, these three received the most nominations). Gabriel will take care of letters and certificates. Eric will make arrangements for open legislative meeting (last Thursday in October). Kathie will write open letter.

V. Outreach Report

A. Bridging Relationship Between Community & Law Enforcement Forum, Sept. 16, 6 p.m. at Evergreen in Monticello – discussion will include militarization of the police

VI. Old Business

My sense is that the discussion from IV. B really belongs here, since we brought it up last month, but that's not how it fell out in the meeting. Please advise after discussion of minutes in Oct. meeting.

VII. New Business

VIII. Public Comment – no members of public present

IX. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathie Aberman. Please let me know if you see any inaccuracies or omissions.