

**Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Thursday, January 21, 2016**

Present: Peggy, Judy, Gabriel, Donna and Kathie (via Skype)

- I. Approval of last meetings minutes – approved
- II. Executive Committee Report
 - A. Congratulations to Gabriel and his wife on the birth of their son.
 - B. Eric's resignation was effective Jan. 18, 2016. Judy has been in touch with Linda Levine (who isn't either 100% sure of the process). We have 2 applicants for the Director's position, and the month of advertising for it is over. However, the legislature has another person (Danielle Shannon) who is interested, so we agreed to keep it open for another week. The Executive Committee will interview all applicants, with Gabriel recused due to conflict of interest.
 - C. Judy and Peggy met with Josh Potossek and new legislators, Nadja and Luis. They were concerned that we continue to maintain gender diversity on the Commission. Questions regarding the Director position: 1) can we have an interim director? 2) can we have a FT position? There is some confusion about the Commission's relationship with the County, so they are going back to the lawyers to see if the relationship should be restructured. The sense of this meeting was that the Legislature is very supportive of the HRC and wants to correct the perception that there is miscommunication.
 - D. We agreed that we would like to do something to honor Eric, perhaps at the Eileen Weil brunch.
 - E. New Commissioner – Judy, Peggy and Gabriel interviewed George Nikolados today. Bill Liblick reached out to Nadji and Luis to say that he, too, was interested. (Please see February's minutes for comment on this statement.)
- III. Committee Reports
 - A. Issues Committee – Papers for the last three complaints (from last month's meeting) have been filled out and filed. Until we have a new director, or an interim director, Gabriel will check the phone in the HRC office and make the Commission aware of any complaints that need to be handled.

B. Outreach Committee

1. The second in our series of 3 bullying workshops was held at the Cooke School. Judy and Shaniqua, Desmond and Justin, with Peggy sitting in on and supporting Des. & Jus. The third session will be Feb. 26.
2. Meeting of the Eileen Weil Committee was on Jan. 19. Three honorees - - have been chosen. The next meeting is Tues, Feb.16 at 5:30 p.m. A keynote speaker needs to be chosen.
3. Dialogue-to-Change Meeting on Jan. 9 was very successful, attended by about 40 citizens. Participants broke up into committees. These are the committees and the chairs/co-chairs.

Communication: Marty Colavito and Pete Gozza

Documentation & Evaluation: Lorraine Lopez

Logistics: Sandy Oxford

Planning for Action: Margaret Langston & Cheryl Towne

Recruiting Participants: Peggy Johanson & Freda Eisenberg

Recruiting Facilitators: Helen Budrock

The Steering Committee met 1/18, and sub-committees are meeting currently.

Discussion (on Jan. 9?) involved strong feelings: should legislators participate, and if so, how?

IV. Old Business

- A. Sam is not here to report on the status of his interest in speaking out about his concerns relating to misconceptions and distorted perspectives on Islam.

V. New Business

Nothing new (besides all the above) to report!

VI. Public Comment

VII. Adjournment at 6: 20 (?)