

Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
July 14, 2016

Present: Lorraine, Judy, Bill, Roland, Kathie, Gabriel, Donna, Sam

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

- I. Approval of minutes from last meeting: Bill said that he spoke about the Orthodox/Hasidic Forum, as was noted in the minutes, along with Judy and Lorraine. Bill made a motion to approve; Donna seconded; all approved.

- II. Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Committee – Peggy, Lorraine and Judy met
 1. Strategic Plan Date – So much is going on; we need to remain focused. So far, we are right on target with our strategic plan. The Dialogues are going well. Should we review the S.P. in September? Perhaps a short two-hour session? Either a Saturday or an evening? Judy will contact Helen Budrock to see possible dates.

 2. HRC Bylaws – Judy spoke to Lori Bertsch about having them be ready; she was referred to Luis Alvarez, who said he would look into it and get right back to her. However, he has not gotten back to Judy, so she will check with him again.

 - B. Outreach Committee
 1. Dialogue2Change Initiative – Action Forum (“The Big Event”) will be Saturday, July 16, from 2 – 5:30 at Bethel Woods Events Gallery.

 2. Orthodox/Hasidic Forum (June 20) Follow-up: Meeting will be Tuesday, July 19, 5:00 at Swan Lake Synagogue. Some issues that were brought up will be addressed.

 3. Relationship between community and police: an issue that needs to be explored, and we should explore it with other groups (i.e. NAACP, Latino Alliance, Interfaith Council) and the community. There is the perception in parts of the community that there is a problem with police. Addressing the issue is complex (involves training, vetting officers, etc), but we should begin looking it. The outreach committee will begin to look at this, and meet with leaders of agencies and community groups. Donna and Sam suggested starting small to find out how people

are feeling. Judy: As the HRC, we need to be proactive and start the discussion. The Outreach Committee will meet to discuss the format and who to invite.

III. Director's Report

A. Complaints

1. The young man who was in jail has been sent by Judge LaBuda to a mental health facility. Who is responsible for monitoring his case? Should we ask Marty who could be an advocate for him?
2. The woman on Section 8 who was going to be evicted: Lorraine arranged for her to have a hearing.
3. Language discrimination case: a woman complained that she was told she could not speak Spanish at work (unless to help a client). She filed for a state hearing.
4. Two new complaints:
 - Racial discrimination at a local factory. Complainant was called the "N" word. Lorraine gave him papers to file.
 - A woman claims her property is going to be taken away by going to auction. Lorraine told her it's not a HR issue, and referred her to a lawyer.

B. Lorraine spoke to someone from NYS Office of Human Rights. She will meet with the Regional Director to enable direct referrals of issues.

C. Collaboration with NAACP – Cooke School (Back-to-School Parent Advocacy) – August 13 Forum – Sandra Johnson-Fields asked Lorraine to speak about advocating for your child.

IV. Public Comment – none this meeting

V. Adjournment at 6:20 p.m.