

**Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 26, 2016**

Present: Judy Balaban, Isaac Diebboll, Peggy Johansen, Bill Liblick, Gabriel Bertonazzi, Lorraine Lopez, Kathie Aberman, Sam Encarnacion

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

- I. Approval of minutes from last meeting(s)
 - A. March minutes – approved
 - B. April minutes – Although the plan was for Judy to appoint Sam and Roland as Nominating Committee, in the interim, commissioners of the Executive Committee were polled and agreed to change the process to a voice discussion at the May meeting. Two spelling corrections were made. Clarification of S.A.L.T. resources: they are working on creating this and a system for navigation. Their next meeting is 6/16 at 9 a.m. (Stroebele Center). Minutes approved.
- II. Annual Meeting
 - A. Nominations: Judy Balaban, Chair
Gabriel Bertonazzi, Vice-chair
Peggy Johansen, Treasurer
Kathie Aberman, Secretary

Bill made a motion to adopt this slate, Sam seconded, all approved
 - B. Committees
Outreach Chair, Kathie; members, Bill, Isaac
Issues Chair, Sam; members, Gabriel, Roland
 - C. Paper of Record – Sullivan County Democrat
 - D. Meeting Dates: Next meeting, June 23rd; following that, the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

III. Committee Reports

- A. Executive Committee – Did not meet this month, but communicated by email regarding the annual election of officers. Judy wrote a letter supporting the relationship we have with Legal Services of Hudson Valley in their application for funding.

B. Issues Committee – see Director’s Report: Complaints

C. Outreach Committee

1. Dialogue2Change Initiative:

- There are close to 80 participants. Isaac went to the Spanish-speaking group: they were very passionate, but decided they would rather mix in with the other groups rather than be in their own language group. Districts 1 and 2 had fewer people signed up (perhaps because there is less of an association with poverty?), so they combined into one group.
- Great feedback from the groups: new connections; new ideas, more communication (people to people; people to agencies; people to government)
- Isaac did a lot of outreach. Some people who are not participating are not for many reasons: apathy, intimidation, fear for jobs, cynicism. How can the work that government does become accessible to the public, so that people feel more connected to the government?

2. Orthodox/Hasidic 2016 Forum – Bill Liblick: date is set for June 20, from 1:00 – 3:00. The agenda is being developed. The moderators will be Tony Cellini, Gerry Orseck, Rabbi Irving Goodman, Judy and Lorraine. Bill will contact Tony and Gerry to set the final agenda-planning meeting.

III. Executive Director’s Report

A. Complaints

- a. Ongoing: woman refused treatment at Crystal Run because of mistaken fraud accusation. Lorraine has reached out to Crystal Run and is waiting for their response. Meanwhile, she spoke to Joe Todoro, who said he will help if it is not resolved.
- b. Young (gay, African-American) man felt he had been discriminated against by Shop-Rite when they wouldn’t cash a check for him. Lorraine spoke to the SR manager, who felt there had been a misunderstanding, and invited the complainant in to speak with him. However, the complainant declined to have this discussion.
- c. An employee of DFS called Lorraine about a client, a young man in jail who got beaten up. Caseworker fears for her client

because he is schizophrenic, and she feels, vulnerable. Sam will look into it.

- d. A woman came into Lorraine's office. She and her husband had been arrested at the start of the school year. Bail was set very high; they spent 75 days in jail until it was reduced. Her complaint: she lost her home, her daughter had to leave SCCC to take care of the woman's other children. When she was released and went to live with her daughter, the daughter received an eviction notice (because the mother was accused of a felony, although not convicted).
- e. There is one other complaint that Lorraine will discuss with Sam and Roland.

B. Monticello Downtown Revitalization Initiative NYS grant (Sullivan Renaissance) – Denise Frangipane asked us to participate, but it was too late for that to happen.

C. Lorraine will be making the Director's report to the Executive Committee from now on.

D. Lorraine is planning to meet with David Chavkin tomorrow to discuss his being involved with civil rights workshop.

E. Lorraine is going to the EO training next month (June).

F. Healthy Sullivan – the task force to address Sullivan's health ranking in a 5-year plan with other agencies, meets every 2 weeks.

IV. Public Comment – none

V. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.