

**Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Thursday, August 10, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 5:40 p.m.

Present: Judy, Lorraine, Sam, Sharon, Bill, Gabriel, Peggy, Kathie, Donna (via phone)

- I. Approval of last month's minutes: moved, seconded and approved
- II. Director's Report
 - A. Evergreen – Judy and Lorraine went to a meeting there about the recent crimes, the broken lights and cameras. Residents are very upset – people come in from outside to deal drugs, break in, etc. because they know they can get away with it. Les Kristt suggested talking to Bill Rieber and Luis Alvarez and requesting money to deal with upgrades and repairs. Also, D.A. inspector Dietz went into Evergreen, and residents felt that he was harassing some of them. Follow-up meetings/actions will be planned.
 - B. Law Enforcement Initiative – Final event will be Sunday, August 13 at the Bagel Fest in Monticello. Money from the Dunking Booth will be brought to the next Steering Committee meeting with law enforcement so they can decide what program(s) they will fund with it.
 - C. Resignation – Lorraine's words of love and appreciation, and ours back at her.
- III. Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Committee
 1. ED Interviews – there are seven applicants for the position, two final interviews will take place tomorrow. We hope to make a decision by Monday.
 2. Full-Time Position – Discussion of the possibility of expanding the position from ½ time+ to full time to be able to manage all the issues that we have been working on. Our work is expanding. Sharon, Kathie and Bill will work on a proposal. Lorraine will find out when the budget is due.
 3. Planning for School Program – The plan is for Part 1 (all 5th graders, who will be bused in to one school, will have an assembly), and Part 2 (Lorraine's presentation of diversity of

community leaders). They are asking for a second speaker, perhaps a local author. Sharon may be willing to do it.

B. Outreach Committee

1. John Conway Talks (Peggy) – His first talk received excellent reviews. The highlights were all the different groups that have settled and assimilated in the County. He went up to the 1970s, so maybe we'll think about someone to fill in up to the present. Sam knows someone who would be great, so he will ask him about it. The last two presentations will be
 - 9/26, 6:30 Western Sullivan Public Library, Callicoon
 - 11/19, 2:00 Time in the Valleys Museum, Grahamsville
2. Hasidic-Community Relations – Sam sent Bill some photos and information. We need another outreach meeting.

C. Issues Committee

1. Lorraine is meeting with someone from Evergreen
2. A woman with a medical issue, employee at WalMart, uses a cart as an accommodation. She is being told that she cannot do that.
3. Ongoing issue with a person making a complaint against a member of the DHS staff.

IV. Public Comment

Colleen LaRose (who was here to interview for the directorship and stayed for the meeting): there should be a state agency that handles disability accommodations.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.