

**Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 5:35 P.M.

Present: Judy, Gabriel Donna, Bill, Ari, Sharon, Kathie, Sam, Peggy

- I. Approval of last month's minutes – two changes needed. Otherwise, all approved

- II. Director's Report
 - A. DACA Statement – Ari and Sharon are working on it. It will be ready by Monday, and will be disseminated by Dan Hust.

 - B. Evergreen Meeting held with David Sager, Bill Rieber, Les Kristt, forming a new group (MUST) to address problems there, appointment of a new board. Business owners in Monticello feel strongly that Evergreen is part of their community and the needs must be addressed, solutions found.

 - C. Law Enforcement Initiative – Follow up meeting will be announced soon, when Ari hears back from various partners re: the best date/time. At the meeting, it will be decided how the money made during the summer festivals will be spent.

 - D. Community Outreach Efforts

9/11/17 on WJFF to speak about the HRC
9/12/17 Met with WIC staff, explained about HRC

- III. Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Committee
 1. New Executive Director Full-Time Position – We've asked for letters of support. Judy has requested a meeting with Luis and Josh to discuss.

 2. Hispanic Heritage Awards are set for October 19 at 2 P.M. This is the 5th year we have made the award to three citizens in the Latino community who have made outstanding contributions in the County.

 3. Strategic Planning Meeting – Judy will put out dates in October; Ari is looking for a facilitator.

 4. School Program – Lorraine did a program last year on International Human Rights Day that was received very well. The Monticello district requested that this year we do it for all 3 schools (5th grades). Judy will set

up a meeting. Peggy spoke to MaryAnn Swensen at Chase. They will be in touch. Sam contacted Tri-Valley (Lauren Patate?) and they are very interested in some kind of diversity program.

5. Ari and Sharon met with Dan Hust. Eventually, we'll be in control of our technology. We will also be on Facebook!
6. ReelAbilities Film Festival at Hurleyville Arts Center: we will be co-sponsoring (all agreed). We will do publicity.
7. Budget – We need a date. We have money for Undoing Racism. Peggy and Ari will meet about the budget.

B. Outreach Committee

1. John Conway Talks – two more to go (Callicoon on 9/26 and Grahamsville on 11/19)
2. Hasidic-Community Relations: there were fewer complaints this year. Bill will work on a brochure emphasizing safety on the roads. Sharon pointed out that we have access to printing of signs and brochures through the County.
3. Bill will set up a meeting of the Outreach Committee to discuss ways to do outreach with the public.

C. Issue Committee

No new issues at this time

IV. Public Comment – Several members of the Youth Economic Group made statements in support of students who face various challenges:

- Nikivia: very upset that her friends who are undocumented are living with so much uncertainty and fear;
- Somaga: Dreamers are the bravest people she knows, and they shouldn't have to live in fear;
- Ivan: was born here, but his sister was born in Mexico, and until recently was undocumented. How is that fair?
- Iris: DACA recipient, just started nursing school, but now her whole future is in doubt;
- Vincent: LGBT students in Monticello face many problems of discrimination, and knows that this is wrong
- The HRC responded that we fully support a solution that will protect DACA, and that we are here for any student who is having a problem with discrimination.

V. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 P.M.