

Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Thursday, January 11, 2018

Present: Ari, Judy, Kathie, Gabriel, Sharon, Sam

- I. Approval of November 2017 minutes: unanimously approved
- II. Director's Report
 - A. Extended hours (29) and 2018 office schedule posted on County website.
 - B. Law Enforcement Initiative: 2017 funds of \$869.00 collected last summer
 - C. Community Outreach Efforts
 1. Working with Nadia Rajs: Cultural education on HOMODOR, the Russian/Ukrainian Famine from the 1930's. These atrocities haven't received much attention. There may be controversy, but it is important to have the discussion. There will be an exhibit in the Government Center Lobby in Dec. 2018 (HR week).
 2. Satellite HRC office at local libraries: last Wednesday of the month. Ari will be available for people who want to meet outside of the government center.
 3. HRC presence at local town and village board meetings. Commissioners should make appoint of attending, introduce the HRC, leave brochures, etc.
 - D. County Policy on Expenses and Contracts – Ari stressed the importance of everyone following these policies in every case.
 - All expenses must be authorized by the Executive Director by first establishing that proposed expenses:
 - meet County policies, and
 - funds are available and in the proper GL budget line,
 - submitting a requisition,
 - procuring Purchase Order
 - following up with detailed invoice, internal confirmation/documentation, and voucher

III. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee – did not meet in person because of weather

1. Strategic Plan Meeting
2. Board Vacancies – two HRC vacancies are currently posted on the website. Roland is retiring and Peggy is stepping down.(See her letter below*)
3. Eileen Weil Scholarship – Annual brunch committee met. Decision was made to place accumulated money into Community Foundation of Orange & Sullivan. Once it reaches \$25,000, it will continue to grow in perpetuity. To use the foundation, a special law has to be passed. Judy is working on this with County Legal. Honorees chosen:
 - Bruce Ferguson – environmental justice activist
 - Martin Colavito – community/human rights activist
 - Elaine Williams – community/human rights activist
 - Roland Ward – acknowledgement for his service on his retirement from the HRC

Date is set for April 15, 2018 at Eagle's Nest

4. Ari does not have any health insurance. We need to lobby our legislature to insist that Ari must have health insurance. Ari has an appointment with Josh and she will let us know so we can follow up.

B. Outreach Committee

1. Advisory Committee
2. Facebook Presence – meeting next week (of the 15th) to get it online. Kathie made a motion that we compile fact about the economic benefits of immigration, and specifically DACA, to post. Sam seconded. Kathie and Sharon will work on it.
3. Volunteers
4. Other Updates – Anti-bullying event for spring; putting together a calendar; another dialogue on racism; continue engagement with law enforcement. We picked a date to begin planning anti-bullying with all stakeholders: March 1, 4:30, Government Center. Ari will make arrangements for legislative hearing room.

C. Issues Committee

1. There have been 14 complaints reviewed by Gabriel & Ari. None of them have been strong enough to go to the state. Complainants have been referred to appropriate resources.

IV. Adjournment at 6:40 p.m.

*Resignation letter from Peggy:

"I submit this letter with all due respect to you, the Commissioners and the Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission.

Please accept this official notice of resignation, to come into effect today. We have discussed this, so I know it does not come as a surprise. Although I have been honored to serve on the Commission for the last 3-1/2 years, I am choosing to step down to focus more on my work and family in the coming year.

I am confident that under your leadership the Human Rights Commission will continue to grow in ability to both reach out to the public educationally and to protect the rights of county residents.

Sincerely,
Peggy Johansen"

NOTICE:

The Human Rights Commission meets every second Thursday of the month, at 5:30 p.m. in the Legislative Hearing Room, Sullivan County Government Center in Monticello, NY. For more information, call 845-807-0189 or email ari.mir-pontier@co.sullivan.ny.us

NOTAR:

La Comisión de Derechos Humanos se reúne cada Segundo jueves del mes, a las 5:30 p.m. en la Sala de Audiencias Legislativas. Sullivan County Government Center en Monticello, NY. Para más información, llame al 845-807-0189 o envíe un correo electrónico ari.mir-pontier@co.sullivan.ny.us