



*Allan Lazo, Chair
Kyle Busse, Vice-Chair*

Human Rights Commission Meeting Notes

Date: February 1, 2012

Time: 4:00-6:30 PM

Location: 5315 N Vancouver, Portland OR 97213

Attendees

Commissioners Present: Aimee Krouskop, Allan Lazo, Ashley Horne, Christine Rontal, Deyalo Bennette, Donita Fry, Emily Gottfried, Mayra Arreola, Moloy Good, Stephen Manning

Commissioners Absent: Abdul Majidi, Damon Isiah Turner, Donna Maxey, Hector Lopez, Kyle Busse

Staff: Sara Hussein (Commissioner Fritz's Office)

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Lazo called the meeting to order at 4:20 pm.

Allan welcomed everyone and asked Commissioners to introduce themselves.

Public Comment

None

New HRC Members

Allan introduced the three newest members to the HRC: Aimee Samara Krouskop, Mayra Arreola, and Deyalo Bennette. Each person gave a brief overview of themselves. Aimee has worked internationally in human rights, including human rights issues related to fair trade and the Colombian Civil War. Mayra moved to the United States from Mexico in 2007 and currently works for Rural Development Initiatives. Deyalo is a student at Portland State University majoring in Philosophy and Communication. He has worked with Northeast Coalition of Neighbors and Cascade AIDS Project.

HRC Short Term Work Plan

1. Strategic Plan RFP Update

The final deadline for the RFP was January 20, 2012 and two applications were received. A group of evaluators from the HRC will review the applications and bring recommendations to the full Commission by next month's meeting. The goal is to have the strategic planning retreat within the next two months.

2. Budget

Allan passed out the HRC's budget worksheet for the HRC to review and accept. He explained that HRC's budget is not subject to the 4-6% cuts that City bureaus are subjected to. The HRC's budget is within the Office of Equity and Human Rights' (OEHR) budget.

MOTION: Moloy moved, and Christine seconded, to accept HRC's FY 2011-12 budget.

ACTION: With 7 in favor (Good, Gottfried, Horne, Fry, Manning, Lazo & Rontal), the motion *passed*.

Approval of Agenda and January 4th Minutes

Allan requested to add an update on ICE to the agenda under Committee & Liaison updates.

MOTION: Moloy moved, and Emily seconded, to accept the agenda as amended.

ACTION: With 7 in favor (Good, Gottfried, Horne, Fry, Manning, Lazo & Rontal), the motion *passed*.

MOTION: Emily moved, and Christine seconded, to accept the January 4th, 2012 minutes.

ACTION: With 7 in favor (Good, Gottfried, Horne, Fry, Manning, Lazo & Rontal), the motion *passed*.

Committee & Liaison Updates

1. Human Trafficking Task Force

Kyle, Stephen, Donita, Moloy, Damon, Ashley and Hector are a part of this task force. HRC has done human trafficking before and will be focusing their efforts on international human trafficking. The group is currently working on developing a work plan and proposes to have a public forum in mid-March as the first step in information gathering. A report will be created after the forum with the information and facts gathered.

The task force was looking at having the forum at PCC, but the auditorium is only available on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Stephen asked the HRC if they would prefer to have to forum on Wednesday March 14th at a venue other than PPC or at

PCC on Friday March 16th. The majority of the HRC preferred having the forum on a Wednesday. Sara will check the availability of the Council Chambers in City Hall and the Portland Building's Auditorium.

Stephen asks the HRC for a \$1,000 budget to host the forum and other expenses related to the forum.

MOTION: Emily moved, and Moloy seconded, to allow the Human Trafficking Task Force to host a forum in mid-March and allocate \$1,000 to the task force for logistics related to the forum and any additional funds needed for required security at the forum.

ACTION: With 7 in favor (Good, Gottfried, Horne, Fry, Manning, Lazo & Rontal), the motion *passed*.

2. ICE

In the past, the HRC drafted a report on ICE's holding cells Multnomah County jails to the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). The HRC urged the Sheriff to detangle MCSO from ICE, yet all recommendations from the report were rejected except for one, which was to have signs up in the jails indentifying ICE workstations.

Damon was contacted by a group called Activists Coming Together for Justice & Dignity, who asked if the HRC can write a letter of support re-stating their commitment to ICE for a hearing that Multnomah County is hosting. Stephen offered to draft the letter and send it to the HRC for review and Moloy offered to present it at Multnomah County, depending on the date of the hearing.

MOTION: Donita moved, and Moloy seconded, to support Activists Coming Together for Justice & Dignity to draft a letter regarding ICE in the jails and to present at Multnomah County's hearing.

ACTION: With 7 in favor (Good, Gottfried, Horne, Fry, Manning, Lazo & Rontal), the motion *passed*.

3. Charter Review Commission Update (CRC)

Allan presented at the CRC's January meeting the charter inclusion language for the HRC. There were still issues with the language and a subcommittee will work with the City Attorney's office to fix the language. The current language will not go forward. Kyle will be working with the City Attorney's office. CRC ends on March 1st and the next CRC will not convene until 2013.

4. Community & Police Relations Committee (CPRC)

There are three new members to the CPRC: Tonya Dickens, Jamie Dunphy, and Maria Lisa Johnson. At last month's CPRC meeting, Commander Mike Crebs presented the Police Bureau's proposed budget with 4% cuts. Additionally, the CPRC heard a presentation from Emma Covelli, an analyst in the Bureau, who has been hired to create a database streamlining all of PPB's outreach efforts.

5. Communications & Outreach Committee

The Executive Committee is also the Communications & Outreach Committee. They are working on putting together an “event kit”, which will include buttons and fliers. Emily offered to chair this Committee and asks that all HRC members send their bio’s to Sara.

6. Committee for Intergroup Understanding (CIGU)

HRC through CIGU is helping organize the March 13th Race Talks on Occupy Portland. This will start at 7 pm at the Kennedy School. Donna was absent and Emily could not provide further updates since Donna is spearheading this effort.

7. Office of Equity & Human Rights (OEHR)

Allan and Kyle were both involved in the hiring process for the OEHR Director: Kyle reviewed applications and Allan was on the interview panel. Final interviews, which will be conducted by Commissioner Fritz, Mayor Adams and their Chiefs of Staff, will be held on February 2nd & 3rd. There were many local and national candidates; a total of 95 people applied. OEHR will be located in downtown in the Commonwealth building, which is on 421 SW 6th Ave, Suite 500 (SW 6th & Washington). Therefore, the HRC will begin meeting at this location beginning in March or April since the HRC is housed in OEHR. Parking will be validated for HRC members and the public attending HRC meetings. Allan suggested having the March meeting at IRCO (Immigrant & Refugee Organization) and Sara will work on coordinating that.

Closing/Announcements

Emily invites everyone to a screening of “Food Stamps” on February 20th at the Bagdad Theatre. Congressman Earl Blumenauer will be in attendance. Additionally, the Oregon Area Jewish Committee (OAJC) will be hosting an interfaith Seder in March and will email the HRC with more information.

Stephen will be lecturing at the Multnomah County building on February 14th on “Immigration: How it works. Does it?”

Allan asked Commissioners for their reflections on the meeting:

- Happy that new Commissioners are on board
- Good energy
- Work on ICE and human trafficking

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.