

**ONEONTA, NEW YORK – October 24, 2013 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

**PRESENT:** Chair Joyce Miller  
Commissioner Teresa Sivers  
Commissioner Tom Kelly  
Commissioner Cecilia Zapata  
Commissioner Michael Brown  
Council Member Russ Southard

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Fida Mohammad

Chair Miller called the regular meeting to order and called the roll.

**PETITIONERS**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Next meeting is December 5. NO meetings on 11/28 or 12/26**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Brown that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 22, 2013 be approved.

**Voting Ayes:** Chair Miller  
Commissioner Teresa Sivers  
Commissioner Tom Kelly  
Commissioner Cecilia Zapata  
Commissioner Michael Brown

**Voting Noes:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Fida Mohammad

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ONEONTA, NEW YORK – October 24, 2013 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS PG. 2**

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no quorum at the September 26, 2013 meeting: March on Main Street was discussed and everyone thought it was a huge success. Safe Space Training was discussed: Tom Kelly will contact Barbara Heegan, head of the Chamber of Commerce, and see if the Chamber was interested in sponsoring Safe Space Training for business persons using the model of safe space for the LGBTQ community. We also discussed having a community event that allows for conversation about diversity or a culture event such as a diversity festival.

**Diversity in Oneonta report from the Summer Intern.** Commissioner Brown & Commissioner Zapata felt it was a good start based on the information already out there. Commissioner Zapata mentioned that SUNY Oneonta is being intentional about more diversity in hiring. Commissioner Kelly said there is diversity training for the Resident Advisors and Resident Directors at Hartwick and that the population of persons of color has increased. Commissioner Siverson said the report did not define diversity. It depends on how diversity is defined: economically, ages, etc. Commissioner Brown said that Oneonta is a more welcoming “town/city” to the LGBTQ Community than the surrounding rural towns.

**Safe Space Training**

- ✓ On October 2 or 3, Commissioner Kelly put Barbara Ann Heegan in touch with Melissa Fallon from SUNY Oneonta who have volunteered to provide training.
- ✓ Barbara Ann thought it was a great idea and had ideas of how to present it to the members of the Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ Commissioner Zapata suggested that Joyce contact Melissa and tell her about Barbara Ann’s interest...since Joyce had the original contact with her.
- ✓ Commissioner Kelly reported that
- ✓ Hartwick had a Safe Space training meeting. Their trainings are aimed at RA’s and RD’s. If they open training to the entire college, then the Commission will also be notified.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Community Event**

- ✓ Ideas thrown out included being a part of OH-Fest which is sponsored by the Student Activities of both colleges and 2 liaisons from the City Council.
- ✓ Having a “Taste of (Diversity) Oneonta” event which includes food?

**ONEONTA, NEW YORK – October 24, 2013 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS PG. 3**

- ✓ Finally, it was decided to make contact with “leaders” in the different groups and see if they would be interested in sitting down at one of our meetings and have a discussion.
- ✓ The different groups and leaders we identified were:
  - Asian – Nancy Chiang to be contacted by Chair Miller
  - Latino – Maria Christina Montoya to be contacted by Commissioner Zapata
  - Native American – Susan Bernardin to be contacted by Commissioner Brown
  - African American – Angela Eardley, Lee Fisher, Olu Harding and the Hair Dresser on Chestnut St. to be contacted by Commissioner Sivers.
  - LGBTQ (Professional Group) to be contacted by Commissioner Brown.
  - Muslim – Fida Mohammad(?)
  - White - ?
- ✓ By our next meeting we will get feedback from the contacts. Then set up an agenda for meeting with the contacts. The questions was also asked: Who else should be at the table?

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Commissioner Sivers announced that economic issues are really mushrooming for many families in Oneonta. The Red Cross will not have SHARE to help with heating costs. Other government monies have also been cut back to families in need.

Commissioner Sivers also announced that in 2014, First United Methodist Church will be celebrating 25 years of being an inclusive community.

There being no further business, Chair Miller declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

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Douglas Kendall, City Clerk

jm/dk