

ONEONTA, NEW YORK – August 22, 2013, --7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

PRESENT: Chair Joyce Miller
Commissioner Tom Kelly
Commissioner Cecilia Zapata
Commissioner Mike Brown
Council Member Russ Southard
Mayor Miller

ABSENT: Commissioner Teresa Sivers
Commissioner Fida Mohammad
Commissioner Muga Katoke

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

PETITIONERS None

CORRESPONDENCE None

ANNOUNCEMENTS None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION made by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Zapata that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 25, 2013 be approved.

Voting Ayes: Chair Miller
Commissioner Kelly
Commissioner Zapata
Commissioner Brown

Voting Noes: None

Absent: Commissioner Sivers
Commissioner Mohammad
Commissioner Katoke

MOTION CARRIED

April 25, 2013 –no quorum

May 23, 2013 – meeting cancelled

June 27, 2013 -- no quorum; Tom Kelly led the meeting which discussed Safe Space Training and the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the MLK March on Washington

July 25, 2013 -- no quorum; plans were discussed for the “March on Main Street” in Commemoration of the MLK March on Washington

OLD BUSINESS

50th Anniversary of the MLK March on Washington - Chair Miller reported on the plans for the “March on Main Street” on Tuesday, August 27, in Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the MLK March

on Washington. The March will go from Water Street, up Chestnut St. Ext to Main St, down Main St to Ford Ave, and ending at the Unitarian Church. Those present made suggestions of persons who own Vintage Cars that may be from the 60's to be in the March. Commissioners Zapata and Brown will be marching and will be able to help organize people on Tuesday . Other groups participating are Job Corps, NAACP, SUNY Oneonta and a great faith in others who will show up. Chair Miller passed out a draft of the Interfaith Service that will be held on Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 12 Ford Ave.

Summer Intern Report by Alex Nowakowski was presented by Mayor Miller who passed out copies to the Commission Members. After giving a background of the work of Interns starting in 2010, Mayor Miller commented on this year's work on the subject of Diversity in Oneonta. Commission members are to read the report and bring to the next meeting concerns and observations on what we should do next with the findings.

Safe Space Training – After a general discussion of GLBTQ SAFE SPACE trainings offered in the Spring by Hartwick College, Commissioner Kelly reported that there may be training at Hartwick again this school year, but there has been a change in leadership. Chair Miller reported that she had contacted HR person Kathy Wolverton, who had contacted the Police and Fire Depts. The Police Dept was not able to schedule persons on such short notice. Commissioner Kelly will talk to Tara at Hartwick and Police Chief Naylor about possible trainings for this coming school year.

Commissioner Mike Brown is in regular contact with Elliott Ruggles, a new person at SUNY Oneonta who wants to do Safe Space Training there. Question: Will Elliott be working with Malissa Fallon, our previous contact? Commissioner Brown will check into that.

There was discussion about bars that are welcoming to GLBTQ persons, and places that aren't. It was decided to take the approach of training for ALL establishments, and particularly the bouncers. Perhaps a certificate could be given to those establishments taking the training...to encourage others to do the same. Make it a matter of pride. Barbara Ann Heegan from the Chamber of Commerce should also be brought into the conversation.

NEW BUSINESS None

There being no further business to come before the commission, Chair Miller duly adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:06 pm.