

ONEONTA, NEW YORK – SEPTEMBER 27, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
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PRESENT: Chair Joyce Miller
Commissioner Jeremy Redlien
Commissioner Fida Mohammad
Commissioner Teressa Sivers
Commissioner Tom Kelly
Council Member Russ Southard

ABSENT: None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The commission approved the minutes of the regular meetings held August 23, 2012, as written, without benefit of a motion.

PETITIONERS

The Chair indicated there were no petitioners.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair indicated there was no correspondence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Sivers stated information was distributed to the commission about Joe Stillman, local filmmaker, putting together a **“Connecting our Community”** forum discussion and screening of the documentary film “I AM” by Tom Shadyac on Saturday, October 27 at 7:00 pm. She said Tom Shadyac was a famous director and directed such movies like “Bruce Almighty,” “Patch Adams” and others. She said the “I Am” documentary was about what was the problem of the world and what was the solution – I am. She said it was all about connection and working together and trying to find a way to make a difference in the communities and in the world. She said Mr. Stillman has arranged for Attorney General Ramsey Clark to be one of the presenters when he introduces this documentary, which he would want the commission to see and then there would be a panel of speakers, which she has been asked to be on. She said Mr. Stillman was hoping that this would make people feel more motivated to be involved and connected in their community. She said she read the documentary and it was very emotional. She said the documentary was about a famous and wealthy Hollywood director living in Beverly Hills and then having a near-death encounter causing him to be much laid up for a long time and comes out of that with the desire to use his gifts for movie-making to make a difference in the world instead of just entertainment.

Commissioner Mohammad stated in regard to discussion at the August meeting and diversity-related training opportunities through SUNY Oneonta he said he spoke to persons in the school’s diversity program and was told that because of budget cuts they would not be able to arrange for community discussions outside the campus. He said it could be held on the campus. He said if the commission agrees to do that he could convey the information to them.

Chair Miller stated that was in regard to the commission’s discussion on the topic of Safe Space.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Mayor’s ad hoc committee exploring means to control mass behavioral problems/ aggressive crowds

Chair Miller asked if ad hoc committee member Commissioner Kelly had any further information on the matter or was that issue finished as far as the commission goes.

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(Old Business) continued

Commissioner Kelly stated the report was presented to the Mayor. He said he continues to meet with Police Chief Naylor and Chief Chambers from SUNY Oneonta every Monday and go over the weekend's activities and crowd behaviors. He said as they continue to meet they will address the problems as they come up. He said communication was a big piece of the matter.

Commissioner Redlien stated he had asked Mayor Miller back in July about being on the ad hoc committee and was told that it was closed and informal. He said he had wondered why members of the commission were not allowed to be involved and yet Commissioner Kelly was on the committee.

Commissioner Kelly stated he did not believe he was on the committee as a member of the commission but on it because of his position at the college. He said it was really an ad hoc committee focused on the issues involving the students and the conduct of the students. He said the people chosen to be on the committee at the time were just to identify the issues surrounding the campus and the students. He said he believed the Mayor wanted to keep the scope very narrow and see what other colleges and police departments were doing to address the problem. He said as issues come up other groups may be invited.

Council Member Southard stated that Police Chief Naylor briefed the Common Council on the matter.

Chair Miller stated she did not think it was a duty or a responsibility of the commission to implement that committee's recommendations. She said she thought it was a committee the commission could go to if it discovers other incidences that may or may not make the police report but was a concern.

The commission held a brief discussion on the matter.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Mohammad spoke briefly about a recent incident he thought was to be very unfair involving his wife, who did nothing wrong but got 2 tickets while traveling on I-88 from a State Trooper. He expressed concern about the incident, how the process was handled, the court and the effects it had on his wife. He asked if someone would help him with contacting The Daily Star to give an interview and share the evidence he collected. He said he was going to contact CAIR, Council on American-Islamic Relations. He said he was a proud person and feels he was slighted as a citizen of this country and that there was injustice done.

The commission held a brief discussion on the matter. Commissioner Kelly stated he would get contact information to Commissioner Mohammad. Chair Miller stated she would find out who to contact at The Daily Star.

The commission held a brief discussion about the visit recent by Cornell West who spoke at Dewar Arena at the college on the Black List.

Commissioner Kelly stated in regard to diversity training he said on October 15th at 7:00 p.m. there would be a presentation called "Straight Answers to Gay Questions" open to the public on Hartwick College campus at the Shineman Chapel. He said additionally in regard to diversity training when the Wellness Educator at the college negotiates their contract she was going to keep in mind the possibility of having this training and if it was something the community might be interested in she will contact him about possibly giving a presentation to the city at large. He said she was interested in seeing what she could do to help the commission regarding this matter.

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Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the commission, Chair Miller adjourned the regular meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

JAMES R. KOURY, City Clerk

JRK/pab