

ONEONTA, NEW YORK - JULY 26, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND
HUMAN RIGHTS**

PG. 1

PRESENT: Chair Joyce Miller
Commissioner Jeremy Redlien
Commissioner Teressa Sivers
Commissioner Tom Kelly
Council Member Russ Southard
ABSENT: Commissioner Fida Mohammad

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

PETITIONERS

The Chair indicated there were no petitioners.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair indicated there was no correspondence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Miller stated the minutes of the June meeting were posted online for review.

The commission approves the minutes of the regular meeting held June 28, 2012, as written, without benefit of a motion.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Further exploration of the graffiti issue
2. Update on Mayor's ad hoc committee exploring means to control mass behavioral problems/ aggressive crowds

Chair Miller addressed the items of old business as follows:

1. Further exploration of the graffiti issue

Commissioner Kelly stated he had spoken to former Commissioner Heegan, who first brought attention to the graffiti issue. He said Ms. Heegan was now Director of the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce and she would told him that she would like to keep ownership of the graffiti issue within her new role and also within the Main Street groups and city groups that might be affected by it. He said virtually the commission would be handing the matter over to the Ms. Heegan for handling by her through her office. He said that was what Council Member Brzozowski and Mayor Miller talked about several meetings ago.

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

Chair Miller stated Commissioner Kelly was a member of that committee and recognized him for a report.

Commissioner Kelly stated he attended the committee's last meeting and in attendance were the two vice presidents of Student Affairs at SUNY Oneonta and Hartwick College, the Acting SUNY Chief of Police, Oneonta Police Chief and the NAACP. He said their final meeting would be Tuesday, the 31st, and at that meeting the members will firm up their recommendations to the Mayor. He said the

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PG. 2

(Old Business) continued

recommendations would address these spikes in violence and disrespect to police officers. He said research on the matter with other colleges and college communities showed they were not doing anything that different than the city. He said most groups have some type of liaison with the colleges, the city residents, the students and police department and meet regularly to talk about issues. He said SUNY Oneonta was in the process of putting a liaison group together.

Chair Miller asked if in the past if the two colleges, their police and city police worked together on a regular basis.

Commissioner Kelly responded yes, they worked very closely together. He said the communication between them was great. He said he thought the Oneonta Police and their efforts were right in line with other departments and other cities.

Chair Miller asked if Oneonta Job Corps was involved at all.

Commissioner Kelly replied not to his knowledge. He said Jobs Corps was not part of the committee but one of the committee's recommendations was that it continues and invites other groups that should be at the table where there were students.

Chair Miller stated she presumed that at the commission's August meeting the final report on this matter would be presented.

Commissioner Kelly stated that would be up to the Mayor.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Miller stated she received an e-mail from Commissioner Fida Mohammad because his wife was stopped by the State Police as a traffic stop but she and Fida felt very strongly that it was a racial profiling by the way things unfolded and "threats" from the State Police to her as she raised some questions. She said Commissioner Kelly was involved with this and she asked if he had more details that he could share.

Commissioner Kelly stated his involvement was only that Fida had called him because he made a complaint to the Internal Affairs office that he used to work in and he mentioned his name to them when he called. He said he did not have an official role in the complaint or investigation of this. He said his thoughts on the matter were that a complaint was made and would be investigated.

Chair Miller stated when she received the e-mail she forwarded it to the Mayor and he said he was aware of it. She said she also suggested to Fida that if he considered it profiling that he work with the NAACP because they had people who followed up on such matters. She said she did not think he had gone that route and went straight with the State Police reporting system. She said Fida was going to make a report to the commission but he followed up the proper way and just keeping the commission informed was the route as this point.

Chair Miller questioned if the commission should be proactive in anything reported or should it just be a listening post as things come to the commission.

The commission held a brief discussion on the commission's charge regarding advocacy, education, diversity, and other issues.

Chair Miller stated that in the past the commission talked about doing newspaper articles from the commission on matters of education, diversity issues, and similar topics.

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PG. 3

(New Business) continued

The commission held a brief discussion on meetings with groups, having speakers and possibly piggybacking with other groups.

The Chair questioned if the college would be open to the commission and discussions on issues.

Commissioner Kelly stated he would check.

Commissioner Sivers asked if the commission had a budget this year and if so how much.

Chair Miller replied she was not sure how much was budgeted but traditionally the commission usually had \$1000 in their annual budget.

There being no further business to come before the commission, Chair Miller adjourned the regular meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m.

JAMES R. KOURY, City Clerk

JRK/pab