

ONEONTA, NEW YORK - JUNE 28, 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
ABSENT: Commissioner Fida Mohammad
Council Member Russ Southard

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

Chair Miller stated that Commissioners Jeffrey Pegram and Barbara Ann Heegan had resigned from the commission.

ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE YEAR 2012

The commission held a brief discussion on the election of Chair for 2012.

MOTION, made by Commissioner Sivers and seconded by Commissioner Redlien, that the commission re-elects Chair Joyce Miller as Chair of the commission for the year 2012.

Voting Ayes: Commissioner Redlien
Commissioner Sivers
Commissioner Kelly
Noes: None
Abstain: Chair Miller
Absent: Commissioner Mohammed

MOTION CARRIED

PETITIONERS

Chair Miller stated there were no petitioners.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Miller stated there was no correspondence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Miller stated there were no announcements.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The commission approves the minutes of the regular meetings held April 26, 2012 and May 24, 2012, as written, without benefit of a motion.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Further exploration of the graffiti issue

Chair Miller asked if there was any update on the graffiti issue.

Commissioner Kelly stated he did not have any update. He said that he did not know that Commissioner Heegan had resigned. He said that they were supposed to make a co-presentation to the Common Council. He said being Barbara Ann was pretty passionate about this matter he would contact her and ask her if she wanted to pursue this as a citizen to the commission, which he would help her in doing that.

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PG. 2

The commission held a brief discussion on the building Mayor Miller had brought up at the commission's May meeting of Bill Youngs' on Chestnut Street that had graffiti on it.

Commissioner Kelly stated that the graffiti removal issue was discussed at Council Member Rissberger's committee, the Community Improvement Committee, and Council Member Brzozowski was going to talk to the Main Street Oneonta group and another group of downtown merchants to see if that was something they wanted to take and if the process needed to be within the government or with outside groups.. He said Barbara Ann had done a lot of research on the project and may still be interested in it even in her position as Director of the Otsego County Chamber.

Chair Miller stated she added to Old Business another issue brought up by the Mayor at the May meeting regarding his concern about cases with aggressive crowds interfering with and confronting police in a physical and verbal way. She said that he wanted to form a committee to check with other communities how the situation was dealt with.

Commissioner Kelly stated he was on the ad hoc committee formed by the Mayor that included representatives from SUCO, Hartwick College, NAACP and Police Chief Naylor. He said they have met once and would be meeting again to continue to explore what other cities and colleges do to address some of the concerns. He said down the road this was a group that should have other people giving input.

The commission held a brief discussion on the matter.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Miller stated Commissioner Redlien emailed her with a concern and she gave him some avenues to explore. She asked the commissioner to explain the matter to the commission.

Commissioner Redlien stated that a matter recently came to his attention that a SUNY Oneonta LGBT identified a professor in regard to a student evaluation. He said in his research it did not appear to have been related to sexual orientation but the reasoning behind it was inconsistent. He said the college was investigating the matter. He said he would keep the commission informed.

Commissioner Sivers questioned the commission's jurisdiction on campus matters.

Commissioner Redlien stated he did not think the commission did but just wanted to inform the commission about it because originally he thought it involved sexual orientation.

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