

**Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Thursday, February 5, 2015**

Present: Eric, Judy, Peggy, Chet, Roland, Kathie, Gabriel

Meeting called to order at 5:20 p.m.

- I. Approval of last month's minutes (and December's) – One correction to Wes Gillingham's name. Peggy made a motion, Chet seconded
- II. Executive Director's Report – Eric attended BOCES Open House. It was uneventful, but good to meet with other agencies there.
- III. Executive Committee Report
 - A. Sam, Roland, Paul and Catherine are up for reappointment. Roland is willing to serve. Paul wants to recommit when he returns. Catherine and Sam are not present. Judy has not received a reply from Catherine, so she will email her and try to find out a working phone number so she can discuss attendance and commitment to the Commission. She will also try to contact Sam. In March we will appoint a nominating committee to reappoint members.
 - B. Met and discussed issues with DFS and the report Kathie wrote about people having so many problems with HEAP, SNAP and other DFS services. We made the decision to support the group of citizens working to bring transparency and fairness to this Department.
- IV. Issues Committee Report – three employment complaints:
 - A. County employee-whistleblower (County doesn't have a clear policy in place.) Employees saying they are being retaliated against for reporting sexual harassment, etc. Eric has filed complaints with the State Division of Human Rights.
 - B. Substitute teacher who feels he's being discriminated against because he's openly gay. He has been with LSD for many years (9), and although he is certified and qualified, he wasn't given an interview for a vacancy in the school.
 - C. A man who was hired (the day another employee lost an arm through a workplace accident), and was put on the same conveyor belt. He is experiencing racial innuendo and all kinds of

inhospitable and hostile behavior. Now he has dislocated his rotator cuff and is on disability.

- V. Outreach Committee Report
- NAACP event last month – Eric spoke, a very beautiful event, very well done
 - Peggy and Judy will meet to write the proposal for the training for Everyday Democracy. Once we train facilitators, we can do training on any number of issues. ED is a program to build a core and a process.
- VI. Old Business
- Plans for Eileen Weil Scholarship Brunch are moving along well.
 - Eric contacted previous complainant (a dad who had complaints about how his child is being treated. Eric explained the process to him.
 - Eric has been working on compiling a list of diversity officers from all school districts; however, many of them are not very forthcoming.
 - Judy will reschedule with Lynn Selkirk from Rutherford School.
- VII. New Business - Peggy brought up that HRC on the County website is very sketchy; not much information about what we do. Judy asked that we all look at the website and bring feedback to the next meeting.
- VIII. Public Comment – no public present
- IX. Adjournment – Kathie made a motion; Chet seconded; meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.