

"Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
March 14, 2019

Meeting called to order at 5:45 p.m.

Present: Judy, Charles, Sam, Marty, Shanita, Dayna, Kathie

- I. Approval of last month's minutes – approved
- II. Coverage of the office
 - A. Shanita and Judy are checking emails: Judy has been returning messages. One was a reminder from Bagel. Fest organizers asking if we want to reserve a booth for this summer
 - B. Sam is picking up the mail

III. Interviews

IV.

Cathie Paci – withdrew
Daphne Laput – withdrew
Clifford Scott – not considering
Yvonne Rivera
Dana Borowski
Andrea Nero Eddings

All interviews have been held, but Yvonne and Dana have not met all the commissioners. Judy will facilitate phone interviews for Kathie (to meet Yvonne) and Charles (to meet Yvonne and Dana)

V. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee Report

- 1. Meeting with legislators and Cheryl McCausland is set for March 21 at 10:30 a.m. It was determined that Judy, Marty, Dayna, Bill and Kathie will attend.
- 2. Prepare for April Annual Meeting – Sam and Charles volunteered to be the Nominating Committee. They will contact all commissioners to ask who is interested in which Executive Committee positions. Anyone interested in a committee chair position should contact Judy.

B. Outreach Committee Report (Dayna reporting in Bill's absence)

- 1. "13th" Program at Hurleyville Arts Center on March 1 – Almost a full house; good representation from county-wide agencies. Victoria and Andrea (lawyers from NYC) thought it went very well and would like to continue to work with us. Janice (from HAC) wants to do screening events with us again. Outreach Committee will consider doing other films. Anyone who has suggestions, please bring them to the committee. One realization: we need to vet speakers more carefully and be sure that their message is compatible with the message we are communicating for that event.

2. Upcoming Law Enforcement and Restorative Practice Forum, scheduled for March 20, 3-5 in Legislative Hearing Room. Marty and Mike will be the presenters. Invited: school officials, law enforcement and other county-wide agencies.
3. Shanita will prepare an event regarding new laws (in NYC) about hair, hair styles, hair coverings (i.e. hijab, etc.). Details will follow. . . .
4. Rabbi Larry was not able to come to this meeting because of a death in his family. He has ideas to share with us, including planning for a community seder (next year), and we will invite him to the next Outreach Committee meeting.

C. Issues Committee Report

1. Marty's update on a complaint from a woman whose mother had an apartment in Monticello that she claimed is full of mold, necessitating her mother to move in with her in Middletown. According to the complainant, she has continued to pay rent and had some of her belongings in storage, which Sullivan County was paying for. When she went to pick up her belongings, they were gone. Marty asked why she continued to pay rent, rather than place the money in escrow. She wants her mother's rent money back, doesn't want to move back into the apartment. She wants to sue the landlord. Marty put her in touch with Legal Services, but all solutions proposed by them (and Marty) were not acceptable to her. We all agreed that we can't do anything further. Marty will write a letter to her to that effect, and document what he has done.
2. Sam followed up on a complaint by a woman that people were smoking in her building and outside the door. After some investigating, Sam referred her to H.V. Legal Services.

VI. Other news

- A. Setting a date for dinner with Ari: Judy will check with Ari about April 5; Dayna will check with Yasou Café about availability of their back room.
- B. NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner, March 30 (5 p.m.) at the Eagle's Nest. Kathie and Judy are members of NAACP SC, and encourage anyone who is able to come to this event.
- C. Sam will be speaking at the Islamic Seminary of Connecticut (New Haven) on March 23; the topic: Bridging the Gap. We are all welcome to attend.

VII. Public Comment

Andrea Nero Eddings was present, but had no comment.