

MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMISSION
ANNUAL MEETING – JUNE 1, 2009

Attending: Dave D'Amico, Luis A. Valentin, Leroy Hill, Myrna Bethke, Janice Sweeney, Jules Ramsey, Philip Smith, Rosibel Gomez, Charles D. Brown III, Keith Rella, John Schwebel, Bill Heine, Ricky Pierce, Lolita Jacob, Kay Guadagno, David Cohen, Sondra Cannon, Sylvia Schechter, Linda Zucaro, Earl Teasley, James T. Pierson.

The meeting was called to order at 3:38 PM. Following the salute to the Flag, introductions were given by going around the tables.

A number of persons were recognized for their service to the Commission. Those attending and receiving recognition were: Barabara McMurrow, Director of the Board of Freeholders, whose service as liaison to the Commission was short, but nonetheless committed and much appreciated. And Susan Folta, who 'makes things happen' when asked to assist the Commission.

Other honorees were founding members: Howard West, Maxine Daniels and Tom Daniels as well as Joan Brearley, Pat Collum, Wendy Edelson, Michael Warshaw, Lynn Miller, Barry Johnson and Chief Jack Hill.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved with one alteration (motion – Zucaro, second – D'Amico)

The election of officers for 2009-11 was handled by Janice Sweeney.

Those elected were:

Chair – Earl Teasley

Vice Chair – with the withdrawal of Fatima Jaffari, Earl will appoint someone to fill this vacancy. He announced his intention to appoint

Carolyn Schwebel

Secretary – Sherri West

Treasurer – Phil Smith

In his Treasurer's report, Phil announced his intention to purchase items to distribute at the Monmouth County Fair. He reported a balance of \$1651 in our account with the Fair items, our new table cover and stickers not included.

Dave D'Amico reported for Chief Mark Kinmon on the Police/Community Relations Core Team. No meeting has been held but the Chief is working on it.

The Youth Awareness Core Team will meet on June 4 to discuss its remaining agenda and especially the workshop for the Fall.

Linda Zucaro reported for the Economic Issues Core Team. The Housing Choices Bus Tour which was conducted by the Monmouth A Team with support from the Commission was deemed a great success. Along with Linda, Rickey Pierce, who attended, gave a full report.

Under Standing Committees – Leroy Hill announced that he had two applications in progress including Lolita Jacob from the Filipino community and should have three, possibly four, applicants for the Executive Committee session meeting in July.

The Immigration issue committee has not met as yet.

Under Support Teams – the Incident Response and Reporting Team fielded a call relating to access to housing repairs. The contention is that it was inadequate due to the party's culture. Earl will probably refer this to the Division on Civil Rights.

Kay Guadagno reported for the Resource Development Team that it assisted with the selection of Fair items and the table cover and stickers are in the works.

Carolyn Schwebel reported no new developments from the Communications Support Team.

Under Old Business, as the first item Earl recapped the just adjourned Executive Committee meeting discussion on the letters to and from Brookdale Community College and our response. He has directed Carolyn Schwebel to frame a response and circulate it as appropriate.

There is no further word on the formation of a muni HRC in Asbury Park.

Phil Smith indicated that he still needs volunteers to staff our segment of the booth at the County Fair in July. He will send written instructions including a pass and a shirt in advance of each assignment.

Earl encouraged volunteers to staff our segment of the booth at the Pride Festival, Sunday June 7. Dave D'Amico suggested that we have our own table next year as space at the Prosecutor's Table is very limited.

Under New Business – members were encouraged to register for the Three Faiths event to be held on Sunday June 14 at three houses of worship and Monmouth University. The focus is charity and justice issues and Myrna Bethke, Commission member and pastor at the United Methodist Church in Red Bank, is one of the hosts.

It was determined (motion – John Schwebel, second – Guadagno) that an ad hoc committee be formed to review our By-laws for possible revision. The following members agreed to serve: Diane Schwartz, Kay Guadagno, Julius Ramsey, Janice Sweeney and David Cohen. Earl asked that the group designate a Chair.

A motion was passed to honor our Charter Members (motion – Carolyn Schwebel, second – Ramsey).

Earl thanked the members for their support in the previous two years and delivered brief remarks:

. . . his personal theme is “from whom much has been given, much is expected”,

. . . he reflected on his early life in southern New Jersey and how it led him to continue to fight for everyone who does not have access to the fullness of American life,

. . . he asked each Commissioner to attend at least two cultural events outside of their own cultural group and stand up for causes of the whole Commission – outside and beyond their own comfort level.

. . . he asked each Core Team to utilize ideas from the development workshop, held in April 2008.

. . . and finally, suggested that the new ad hoc committee just formed could also examine these ideas.

After reminding all attending of the summer months’ calendar, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM

Submitted by

Linda Zucaro, Acting Secretary
Sherri West, Secretary, Corrections added 8/3/09