

MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Full Committee Meeting

Monday, February 7, 2011 3:30p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
AG Building Conference Room
4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

Members Attending: Linda Zucaro, Carolyn Schwebel, John Schwebel, Inderjit and Charanjit Sawhney, Dave D'Amico, Robert Williams, Jeff Delaney, Kay Guadagno, Monmouth County Prosecutor Peter Warshaw, Sondra Cannon, Phil Smith, J. Manuel Castillo, Angel Quiles, Kendall Baldwin, Rosa Lee, Marty Lefsky, Freeholder Amy Mallet.

Guests: J. Frank Vespa-Papaleo, Myrtle Miller, Marguerite Teasley-Graves, Melissa Teasley, Danielle Graves, Tyron McAllister, Iris Moschel, Fidel Wilson, Benn Meistrich, Craig L. Conway, Jacqueline Corlies.

- I. Call to Order – Salute to the Flag. The meeting was called to order at 3:30PM, followed by the pledge of allegiance.
- II. Approval of December 13, 2010 minutes – The minutes were approved with one correction, the correct URL for the new website is: monmouthcountyhrc.org.
- III. Chair's Report – Carolyn commented on today's Asbury Park Press article by Nina Rizzo on the bestowing of the first Earl T. Teasley Humanitarian Award, and commented on how close Earl had worked with to “cast a wider net and not just represent one constituency. She also commented on her efforts to alert businesses that they can't pile snow in accessible parking spaces, and urged members to contact violators to correct the problem as there is a fine involved under NJ state law.
- IV. Treasurer's Report – Phil Smith reported that the Wachovia account was closed (Amount: \$92.29). No further report on current expenses.
- V. Core Team Reports
 - A. Youth Awareness – Linda mentioned work on two projects, one, encouraging the creation of school-based human relations clubs, with a meeting scheduled with the Wall Cultural Communications Club, initiated by Sherri West, on Friday, Feb. 11, at 1PM. Discussion of the guidelines the MCHRC has created and possible avenues of collaboration will be on the agenda. Another activity is to hold workshops, the most recent being one on cyberbullying last October. The next scheduled workshop on April 1, 2011, will most likely be postponed but a topic has been selected, “Is It Hate Speech or Just Trash Talk?” The next meeting is Feb. 28, 4:30PM at the Presbyterian Church, Shrewsbury.
- VI. Standing Committees & Support Teams
 - A. Membership – No report given.
 - B. Communications: The Asbury Park Press has been very supportive with articles on the Humanitarian award, among other announcements.
 1. Web page – John Schwebel discussed the now-live URL: monmouthcountyhrc.org, and stated that all information from the old site has been moved to the new site. We also have an email facility, so anyone can email to get more information on the

organization—with info, hotline, and webmaster links. The site is hosted by Hostgator.com for less than \$150 annually. We will ask the county to forward all inquiries to the new site. We will also add resources on bullying, so anyone with any information along those lines is encouraged to send to the webmaster link. Introductions of the members in attendance were made, including that of the new Prosecutor, Peter Warshaw, who made some brief remarks.

2. Facebook page for MCHRC – Kendall and Randy are working on the page, with a mockup planned for the next meeting.
- C. Incident Response and Reporting – Linda Zucaro reported and appealed for another member to take on the responsibility of monitoring the hotline. One call was received but the number listed was a wrong number, so no return contact could be initiated. The number is received, posted to Louise, and routed to the appropriate agency once received by the hotline if accurate information is provided.
- D. Resource Development – Kay has no report at this time.
- E. Immigration Working Group – Nothing to report.

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. The American Conference on Diversity Humanitarian Award – The MCHRC is being honored on April 28, 2011, for a fundraiser and dinner at the Crystal Point Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant, New Jersey, and we have agreed to send two people to the event at a cost of \$150 per ticket, with the first ticket being complimentary. Kendall Baldwin and Randy Thompson were selected as possible attendees.

VIII. New Business

- A. Selection of Nominating Committee –Carolyn announced the need to establish a nominating committee, reviewed the regulations in the bylaws, and took nominations from the floor: Bob Williams, Rosa Lee, Phil Smith were approved unanimously.

(ARTICLE VI: STANDING COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

2. Nominating Committee – The Nominating Committee is elected at the February full commission meeting preceding the reorganization meeting. It shall consist of three to five members in good standing. The committee shall determine who will serve as its chairperson at its first called meeting, which should be at the convenience of all committee members.

The duty of the Nominating Committee shall be to present a slate of officers at the April commission meeting to be voted on at the June meeting, as the last order of business.

Duties continued in MCHRC Bylaws at

http://www.monmouthcountyhrc.org/MCHRC/documents/MCHRC_BY_LAWS.htm)

- B. The Earl T. Teasley Humanitarian Award Presentation commenced with a moving tribute in song and comments by Asbury Park police officer Tyron McAllister. Carolyn presented the first award to former Director of the New Jersey Civil Rights Division, J. Frank Vespa-Papaleo. In his comments thanking the MCHRC for the honor, he noted Earl’s “rare, vibrant, and activist” qualities that always worked to “create a safe space for dialogue,” which he admired and continues to inspire him. He spoke about his work with Earl, whom he called a “gentle giant.” He commented

that the “only time government listens is when you yell at them,” and that Earl had a remarkable way of finding ways to make bias and discrimination a priority. As an example of Earl’s hard work, Frank commented on a panel at the Department of Education on GLBT issues for public employees that he and Earl helped to organize, that Earl always believed that the “way to make a difference was to educate.” He also remarked that he was particularly moved to accept the award on the day after Earl’s birthday (Feb. 6th), which led him to remember the man and his kindness to him on the arrival of his foster son. Earl’s mother, Myrtle Miller, sisters Melissa and Marguerite, and niece Danielle, were also in attendance along with friends and colleagues.

The links to the articles and photos that appeared in the Asbury Park Press follow:

“Monmouth County Human Relations Commission honors fallen chairman for his mission of social justice:”

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011102060364>

“Commission gives Vespa-Papaleo its first Teasley Humanitarian Award in Freehold:” <http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011102070335>

Gallery of Photos:

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Avis=B3&Dato=20110207&Kategori=MULTIMEDIA02&Lopenr=102070805&Ref=PH>

C. Announcements:

1. Sherri mentioned that a leading feminist and social justice advocate, Gloria Steinem, will speak at Brookdale on Mar. 1, 2011, at 7PM, and the public is invited.
2. Marty Lefsky commented on the recent passage of Affirmative Action and Bullying Legislation
3. Sondra Cannon announced that the Rev. Buster Soaries will speak at Brookdale in late February as part of the Diversity Committee’s Cultural Competency model.

VIII. Calendar

A. Next Executive Committee Meeting –March 7. 2011 3:30 p.m.

B Next Full Commission Meeting: April 4, 2011

VIII. Adjournment at 5:00PM

Submitted by Sherri West, Secretary