

MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, May 5, 2014, 3:30 – 5:00PM

Agriculture Building

4000 Kozlowski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

Attendance: Sondra Cannon, Darryl Hughes, Fatima Jaffari, Janet Kolibas, Rosa Lee, Charanjit Sawhney, Inderjit Sawhney, Sherri West, Linda Zucaro. Guest: Dilpreet Sawhney

- I. Call to Order – Salute to the Flag – the meeting began at 3:30PM with the Salute to the Flag.**
- II. Approval of January 2013 Meeting Minutes – the approval of the minutes were tabled because only one of the members present at the January meeting attended today’s meeting.**
- III. Treasurer’s Report – Sondra distributed the Treasurer’s Report, noting that the Freeholders approved our 2014 budget with only a \$200 deduction, for a total of \$1950.00. Expenses during the past month were \$10 for the Teasley award engraving, leaving our present balance at \$1950.00.**
- IV. Standing Committees and Support Teams**
 - a. Membership - Membership retention strategy – Linda Zucaro reported no new applications, but she reviewed the four areas that she is presently working on—representation from the Jewish community, the Hispanic community, particularly an organized group, the NAACP, and Roman Catholics. She also asked for suggestions for any other groups or good individual candidates. The members also discussed ways to generate greater membership.**
 - b. Communications – In Carolyn’s absence, Linda asked for members to sign up for the Speaker’s Bureau, as well as to revise the Speakers Handbook , and she also reported on her recent speaking engagement, along with Fatima Jaffari, at Brookdale Community College.**
 - c. Incident Response and reporting- Bias complaint response protocol committee – Darryl reviewed the recent history of the procedure**

for the Bias response committee, but, with the resignation of one of the members of the Protocol Committee and the winter disruptions in the meeting schedule, a new protocol committee and procedures have not been developed. Darryl will reach out to Jeff Delaney, one of the other members on the existing committee, will seek another member, and report at the Full Commission meeting on August 4th.

V. Unfinished Business:

a. Report on the MOSAIC Project – Darryl reported on the closing ceremony for MOSAIC, which he described as very moving in terms of the impact the participating students and their parents relayed. He expressed gratification that the Commission played a small role in supporting the program. He commended Fatima on her efforts and asked that more of these kinds of programs be undertaken by the Commission. Fatima described the goals of the program, particularly that of learning about others, both culturally and in terms of faith, celebrating difference. She also noted the benefit to young people in expanding their horizons by experiencing or meeting people in different circumstances, such as the recent visit by some of the participants with the homeless population in New York. She described a new program in the works, Teens Against Intolerance, with teens developing a traveling assembly to visit middle schools to teach about bullying and other issues.

Linda also spoke about the value of the project, impressed by the groups involved (Jewish, Roman Catholic, Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, Unitarian Universalist, Quaker, but no mainstream Protestant group), the variety of meeting places, the types of discussions (such as the one on values) that occurred, and the planning for the community service project, which Fatima said created a strong bond among the participants.

Darryl asked Fatima for suggestions as to how the Commission can continue their support for this endeavor. Fatima answered that members from the Commission as participants would be valued, and expects that some of the MOSAIC members will make a presentation at the June meeting.

VI. New Business: 2014 strategic activities planning – Linda argued that the reasons for the good turnout at recent meetings were the programs and the phone calls to each member. Darryl suggested using the June meeting to discuss strategic planning. Sondra Cannon mentioned the most recent strategic planning meeting where present and past members discussed past, present, and future goals for the Commission. Thus, there was some consensus around using the June meeting to begin the discussion, the July meeting to talk about strategic planning, and the August meeting to discuss the strategic plans going forward. Darryl noted our chief goals, addressing bias, MOSAIC, topic-driven meetings and the humanitarian awards.

The June meeting will be topic-driven with the idea of Dave D’Amico and Fatima Jaffari presenting updates on their work.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:15PM.

Submitted by: Sherri West, Secretary