

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

In accordance with the Statutes of the State of Illinois and the Ordinances of the City of Highland Park, the next regular meeting of the Human Relations Commission of the City of Highland Park is scheduled to be held at the hour of 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2008, at City Hall, located at 1707 St. Johns, Highland Park, Illinois, during which meeting it is anticipated that there will be a discussion of the following:

### **THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

Thursday, January 10, 2008  
6:30 P.M.

#### **AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consideration of minutes – December 13, 2007
- IV. Comments from the Chairperson
- V. Communications Received
- VI. Comments from the Public
- VII. Old Business
  - A. MLK follow-up – Debra Gordon
- VIII. New Business
  - A. Set Programming for 2008
- IX. Comments from the Council Liaison
- X. Comments from Township Liaison
- XI. Comments from Sr. Housing Liaison
- XII. Comments from Student Liaison
- XII. Comments from the Staff Liaison
- XIII. Commissioners' Comments
- XIII. Adjournment

Posted in City Hall

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK HUMAN  
RELATIONS COMMISSION, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
HELD ON DECEMBER 13, 2007**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:30 p.m. Chairperson Balbirer called the meeting to order.

**II. ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Balbirer, Haley, Keen, Lieberman, Plouche, Council Liaison Olian, Student Liaison Novoa, Staff Liaison Landsman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bishop, Gordon, Pedersen

**III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

A correction was made on the spelling of Commissioner Pedersen's name. Haley moved, and Keen seconded that the minutes of the October 11, 2007 meeting be approved; they were unanimously approved.

**IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON**

Chairwoman Balbirer spoke about the positive work that was accomplished by the Commission over the last year. Some of the accomplishments included the Martin Luther King event; the completion of a successful Celebrating Diversity program; support of the Holocaust education event in conjunction with the H.P. Library; and the Outreach to the Community program held at the IC Church. Chairman Balbirer congratulated the commissioners and encouraged them to continue the success in the coming year.

**V. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED**

None.

**VI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Community Outreach Program**

Although Commissioner Pedersen was not present at the meeting, she submitted a report About the program. Pedersen stated that the program was informative and easy to understand. She thought that some of the speakers could have been eliminated, but the information from the agencies needed to be included. She suggested that there be break-out sessions rather than questions from the audience. She suggested that next year we prepare budget line items for AV equipment, custodian costs, and a sound system.

Commissioner Lieberman made a motion to provide a \$150 stipend for the maintenance worker at IC Church. Commissioner Keen seconded the motion and there were 3 “ayes” and 1 “nay”. It was requested that Commissioner Pedersen submit an invoice in the amount of \$150 for the custodian’s fees.

Chairwoman Balbirer added other suggestions including a change in venue and the day of the week. She also suggested that the meeting be videotaped for cable television.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Introduce Student Liaison**

Kim Novoa stated that she is a junior at Highland Park High School. She was very interested in serving as the student liaison to the Human Relations Commission because she is active in the Cultural Connections Club at the High School. Their goal is to bring everyone together and help other students understand what it is like to have a different ethnic background. Kim moved from the Philippines when she was 3 years old.

**B. Karen Lieberman’s Liaison position**

Commissioner Keen made a motion to approve the appointment of Commissioner Lieberman as the Senior Housing liaison. Commissioner Haley seconded the motion. Commissioner Lieberman recused herself from the discussion. Commissioner Gordon was contacted by phone and voted aye on the motion, and all others in attendance at the meeting voted in favor of the motion.

**C. Character Counts Pillar and Humanitarian Award Timeline**

Staff Liaison Landsman stated that news releases were placed in the December Highlander for these awards. The reception will be held at the Highland Park Country Club on April 10, 2008. The deadline for applications is January 31, 2008.

**D. Meeting Dates for 2008**

There are four meetings scheduled for 2008:

January 10

April 10

September 11

October 9

The resolution was passed with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

**E. Programming for 2008**

A discussion of the MLK celebration was discussed. Although the commissioners thought that there was not enough time to plan for 2008, it was suggested that Commissioner Gordon speak with Student Liaison Novoa about a coordinated program during Black History Month. Student Liaison Novoa will ask her student sponsor about the possibility of hosting this program at the high school. Chairwoman Balbirer will ask Commissioner Gordon to contact Novoa about coordinating a program together. This item will be discussed in more detail at the January, 2008 meeting.

**IX. COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL LIAISON**

None.

**X. COMMENTS FROM THE TOWNSHIP LIAISON**

The Phyllis Santullano Drive is being coordinated by the Township this year. The Santullano Drive provides gifts for needy families in the area. Liaison Plouche stated that this program is always highly successful.

**XI. COMMENTS FROM SR. HOUSING LIAISON**

Commissioner Lieberman spoke about the party sponsored by the Housing Commission for those who live in the subsidized housing buildings. She stated that it was a first class job and included food and door prizes. There was a wonderful turnout. Lieberman also stated that the wallpaper at the Walnut Building was finally completed. A new staff person was hired, and the residents are very happy with the choice.

**XII. COMMENTS FROM STAFF LIAISON**

Any commissioners that did not attend the commission training must view it on videotape.

**XIII. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Keen spoke about the Holocaust Project. As liaison to the project, she shared her thoughts about the program. While she agreed that the project was worthy, she stated that the role of HRC was more task oriented (securing volunteers). She suggests that the commission carefully examine their role in collaborative projects before agreement.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Keen moved and Commissioner Lieberman seconded that the meeting be adjourned, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Landsman  
Staff Liaison