



The Human Relations Commission
Members Meeting Minutes
Location: Telecommunication due to Covid-19 Safer at Home Order
May 19, 2020

Rabbi-Jay Sherwood called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present were:

Rabbi Jay Sherwood	Chair
Kim Sannes	Secretary
Alex Morlang	Treasurer
Kelley Pomis	Member
Delia Busby	Member
Leona Lopez	Member
Stan Friedman	Member
Albert Troisfontaines	Member
Candace Woods	Member
Anjuli Kapoor	Alternate
Ellen Johnson-Fay	Alternate
Alisha Lawson	Alternate
Catherine Duarte	Colorado Springs City Liaison

1. Directions

- Rabbi Jay provided digital meeting tips and etiquette

2. Approve Minutes

- Approved January 2020 minutes 6-0 *New members unable to vote until after appointed on May 26, 2020

3. Citizen Comment

- No citizen on call / no comments

4. Introductions and Process: Current and Incoming HRC Members

a. Council appointment schedule/terms

- May 26 City Council will officially appoint new members
- Discussion about member terms and date of appointments need to be corrected
- Catherine Duarte will take the action to correct appointment dates and share the roster

b. Introductions

- Old members/New members/Alternates
 - Members introduced themselves
 - Rabbi Jay Sherwood stated that only difference between members and alternates is that alternates can't vote if there is a full complement of members

5. Preparation for Election of Officers at June 16, 2020 Meeting

- Candace Woods asked how can we get to know each other/qualifications?
- Kim Sannes suggested those interested in being an officer should send their resumes to Rabbi Jay Sherwood and a statement about why they are interested in serving as an officer on the HRC
- Rabbi Jay Sherwood discussed ethics training coming up in the next couple months and how the HRC had to stay within specific guidelines
- More than 2 members in discussion equals a meeting so we bcc on emails when responding or sharing information

6. Rebooting HRC Agenda for the 2020-2021 Year

a. Moving Forward:

- Rabbi Jay Sherwood shared that we missed February, March, and April meetings due to weather and COVID-19 so we need to reboot
- Housing and advocating for a fair housing coordinator position with the city has been the issue HRC has focused on over past year
- Catherine Duarte shared good news--the City Council took the HRC recommendation and is awarding grants to local service providers to help with mediation/education/and keeping our fair housing call line active. This is a direct result of the HRC work on this issue *Positive result of the HRC efforts

b. Schedule Summer Brainstorming Session/Guidance

- Rabbi Jay Sherwood shared that he and Catherine Duarte spoke with the HRC primary city council members, council member Yolanda Avila and David Geislinger. They want the HRC to focus on two things:
 - **Advise** the city council members/be the eyes and ears on what issues are most important to the community
 - **Create programs/forums** for community engagement and discussions to address issues/concerns
- How: June/July- schedule another meeting to give HRC time to come up with issues/brainstorm ideas. At June meeting a date will confirmed so we can issue a public notice as required by city
- Suggestions: Ellen Johnson-Bay suggested an outdoor venue.
- Catherine Duarte advised that it must be accessible and open to anyone and an outdoor venue is possible for our meetings if planned in advance
- Stan Freeman asked about what issues the HRC is focused on. Rabbi-Jay Sherwood stated the HRC has focused on housing and education but the new focus will be decided at brainstorming session
- Anjuli Kapoor discussed the COVID-19 responses and how we connect/frame/connect with other organizations...cross-pollination to support dialogue
- Kelley Pomis discussed the virtual world and how it is making it difficult to engage. We have to think outside the box. Lack of access/opportunity
- Kim Sannes suggested that each member provide a written document with top 3 issues that might be good for the HRC to focus on going forward. Provide this to Rabbi-Jay Sherwood prior to the June meeting. Think outside your personal concerns--think about whole community
- Rabbi-Jay Sherwood asked the members to make this an **action** item-provide bullets and he will format it and attach it to the June agenda. Submit top 3 as well as others that may be of importance to the community. Rabbi-Jay provided his email addresses
- Ellen Johnson-Fay said there are many interconnected within the community. We should not get overly concerned about our personal agenda. Just listen.

7. Other Business

- Kim Sannes asked about getting the new members business cards
- Rabbi Jay asked Catherine Duarte if she could look into that action

8. Adjourn

- There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

"In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the City of Colorado Springs will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or reasonable accommodation to participate in this program should make the request as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event

Kim Sannes
Secretary