



The Human Relations Commission

Members Meeting Minutes

Location: Telecommunication due to Covid-19 Safer at Home Order

August 18, 2020

Delia Busby called the meeting to order at 9:02am. Present were:

Delia Busby	Chair
Stan Friedman	Vice Chair
Candace Woods	Secretary
Alex Morlang	Treasurer
Kim Sannes	Member
Albert Troisfontaines	Member
Anjuli Kapoor	Alternate
Ellen Johnson-Fay	Alternate
Alisha Lawson	Alternate
Catherine Duarte	Colorado Springs City Liaison

Absent: Rabbi Jay Sherwood, Member; Dr. Leona Lopez, Member; Kelley Pomis, Member

1. Call to Order
2. Approve July 2020 minutes - approved
3. Opportunity for citizen comment – three minutes per person
 - a. no comments from community members
4. Chair's Report – HRC funding discussion
 - a. Delia has been speaking to Councils members about the HRC being funded by the City. Asking City Liaison Catherine Duarte for help in understanding the rules around writing a grant. Catherine said that anyone on the Commission can take action in writing a grant.
 - b. Delia invited Bert to share about his concerns regarding a wave of potential evictions in the City. He believes that the Commission might take up this issue.
 - c. Candace shared her items for consideration including youth homelessness and city council accessibility.
 - d. Anjuli talked about nonviolent communication and bringing that into the process. She shared that she's not sure that it's about taking up an issue but rather about making space for better communication between the City and the community.
 - e. Stan went back to the topic of funding of the HRC – asking about whether we can seek donations to the work from individuals and corporations. He then brought up an idea to focus on the idea of “the other” which would address many issues in our community.

5. Discussion on statement re: anti-Semitism and City Council process around BLM movement

a. Points to start from, submitted by Candace:

- i. The HRC strongly condemns anti-Semitic comments and threats that our past chair, Rabbi Jay Sherwood, received as a part of his leadership of our Commission in the past months. We affirm that bigotry and prejudice based on one's race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexuality go against the inclusive and diverse interests of our City. We call for the City Council to commit to addressing both interpersonal and systemic forms of discrimination.
- ii. The HRC is deeply concerned about the process by which the Law Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Commission has been enacted. Of specific concern is the fact that the Council began accepting applications to a Commission that did not yet exist (it had not had a formal vote) and on which the community had not been given the opportunity to give comment. Given that policing disproportionately affects many marginalized groups in our community (Black and brown persons, LGBTQ+ persons, and people experiencing homelessness), we are disturbed that Council negated the voices of representatives from these constituencies and from the general public before it moved forward in the creation of this Commission.

b. Ellen shared that her concerns were related to the HRC being excluded from the process of creation of the LETAC.

c. Anjali asked about whether or not the LETAC will be able to have teeth for enforcement.

d. Stan discussed that his research shows that HRCs are typically separate from police accountability boards. There is some precedence for the HRC asking for a seat on the LETAC for one of its commissioners.

e. Alex thinks that police accountability is out of the scope of the HRC, but does think that it would be useful to have a member of our commission sit at the table on the LETAC.

f. Kim and Ellen agree with those points.

g. Movement to add a sentence to ask for a seat at the table for an HRC member on the LETAC.

h. Delia believes that we should send this directly to City Council.

i. Move by Candace, seconded by Kim to move forward with the statement as written with the addition of a sentence asking for a seat at the table for an HRC member on the LETAC. Motion passes unanimously.

6. Ad Hoc Committee Report: LGBTQ+/Immigration film – Alex, Anjali, Candace

a. Alex discussed that we're wondering how to engage more people in the process than just those affected.

b. Candace isn't sure if we should move forward yet as we don't have a Commission strategy.

c. Decision to table this project.

7. Scheduling

a. Kimberley Sherwood will be joining us as a facilitator for our strategy planning session. This will happen at our regular meeting on September 15.

b. Executive Committee will be meeting Sept. 1.

8. Other business/final commissioners' comments

a. Anjali – are social gatherings allowed? Catherine said that they seem to be fine as long as it's not an HRC centered event, but that care needs to be taken not to have more than 3 HRC members together at one time outside of meetings.

- b. Ellen – question about the Share File and how to access/use it. Seems laborious and difficult to use. How do we make it work for us?

9. Adjourn

- a. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.

Submitted by Candace Woods
Secretary