



The Human Relations Commission

Members Meeting Minutes

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

Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 9:00 – 10:30 AM

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
Anjuli Kapoor	Member
Ellen Johnson-Fay	Member
Kim Sannes	Member
Rabbi Jay Sherwood	Member
Arlisha Lawson	Member
Catherine Duarte	Colorado Springs City Liaison

1. Call to Order – 9am
2. Approve November 2020 minutes – approved
3. Opportunity for citizen comment – three minutes per person
4. Guest – Danielle Summerville
 - a. new Community Diversity and Outreach Programs Manager for the City of Colorado Springs
 - b. on a listening tour to listen to the community about how the city is perceived and how diverse communities have access to the city leadership
 - c. diversity – for now means racial diversity, but she will then broaden the role to look at other forms of community diversity
 - d. she's been sitting in on the LETAC meetings, said the LETAC had a robust conversation about the HRC's request to have an ex officio member, focusing mostly on SE COS for the time as that is the most racially diverse part of the city
 - e. Stan responded to the LETAC comment, said that Steve Kern and JJ are going to reach out to the HRC to discuss further; said that some people didn't know what our commission does or is about, there's some education that needs to happen there
5. Ethics Training – City Attorney – Tracy Lessig
 - a. introductions of the Commission and Tracy
 - b. Amendment 41 to the Colorado Commission – doesn't apply to home rule communities, but the City Code of Ethics passed in April 2007, significant revisions and amendments in December 2016
 - c. Independent Ethics Commission has jurisdiction over elected officials and members of boards, committees, and commissions (includes the HRC)
 - d. Advisory Opinion – any covered person may request an advisory opinion (confidential or non-confidential) from the City Attorney; must be regarding future action; must fully disclose all pertinent facts and circumstances in writing to the City Attorney; defense if covered person, in good faith, follows the advisory opinion; verbal advisory opinions are not binding – ask for writing

- e. Gifts – we and our immediate family members cannot receive gifts related to our duties and responsibilities on behalf of the City
 - f. Conflicts of interest – are prohibited
 - i. using or disclosing confidential information
 - ii. making unauthorized commitments or promises on behalf of the City
 - iii. directly or indirectly participating in any matter in which we or an immediate family member has a substantial interest
 - iv. misappropriating services or other resources of the City for personal benefit
 - v. disclosure and recusal is mandatory
 - vi. appearance of impropriety – not prohibited, but disclosure and recusal is voluntary
 - vii. disclosure and recusal means:
 - 1. refraining from voting on
 - 2. refraining from communicating on the matter
 - 3. leaving the room when it's being discussed
 - g. Open Meeting Laws – meetings have to be noticed 24 hours in advance; this includes email!
 - i. if an email goes out by one member to all other members and then there's a reply all, that is identified as a meeting discussing public matters, that is prohibited
 - ii. if more than 2 people meet, then that meeting needs to be noticed and open to the public
 - iii. closed executive sessions are possible
 - h. questions
 - i. from Stan – differing ideas on how many terms can be had – 1 term of 3 years or 2 terms of 3 years; question about the alternates who are now voting members and their term limits; also question about raising money for the work of the Commission
 - 1. Tracy said generally 2 terms; re: alternates – code hasn't caught up with the revisions around alternates, she doesn't have all the answers about alternates and terms – she'll get us in touch with Michael Montgomery to figure that out; re: fundraising – yes, fundraising can happen, however, we'll need to keep our staff liaison and the attorney's office in the loop about that so that we can keep in line with the code of ethics
6. Chair's Report – yield to process ad hoc committee
7. Process Ad Hoc Committee Report – processing time
- a. the committee will be able to have some more time with Kimberley Sherwood, based on our finances
 - b. one 2-hour session; Thursday, January 7, 2021
 - c. tabling the report until our regular January meeting
 - d. Anjuli's asking the question about why we're going back to Kimberley
 - i. lots of discussion from the Commission about whether or not we need this time and to spend the money to do this
 - ii. decision to move forward with an hour meeting with Kimberley Sherwood to do some integrative work between the work we did with her, the work of the process committee, and the ethics guidelines we've just heard from Tracy Lessig
8. Vice Chair Report – LETAC and radio spot update
- a. LETAC – the process is moving forward on their end. They're working on figuring out if there's space for an ex officio member from our Commission.
 - b. radio – Delia and Stan are working with Rachel Stovall about a roundtable panel on the radio to hold conversations about things related to the community
 - i. affordable housing; can we have a role in tenant/landlord conversations? Councilmember Geislinger has asked to meet with the HRC about the coming onslaught of evictions in the community due to the pandemic.
 - ii. what happens when the next police killing of a Black person happens? (what happens when the next De'Von Bailey occurs?)
 - iii. Candace stated that she would be uncomfortable with the HRC only being a sounding board for the tensions in the community around tenant/landlord relations, but wonders if we might be able to take some action in proposing forward looking legislation to prevent evictions.
 - iv. Stan stated that he didn't believe that Geislinger was looking to get the HRC involved in a vitriolic conversation with tenants and landlords, but only to brief us on what's going on in the community and to brainstorm about what might be possible.
9. Other business/final commissioners' comments
10. Adjournment – 10:30am

Submitted by Candace Woods
Secretary