



The Human Relations Commission

Members Meeting Minutes

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

July 21, 2020

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

Rabbi Jay Sherwood	Chair
Kim Sannes	Secretary
Alex Morlang	Treasurer
Delia Busby	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

Absent: Dr. Leona Lopez, Member; Kelley Pomis, Member

1. Direction from Chair

- Asked for a volunteer to take notes as Secretary Kim Sannes is on the road. Ellen offered to take notes.
- Rabbi Jay commented on the continuing COVID19 situation and how it is affecting everyone's lives
- Black Lives matter and City Council forming a Commission and have over 600 applicants

2. Approve Minutes

- Approved May and June minutes with minor edits around spelling of names

3. Citizen Comment

- No citizens on call / no comments

4. Chair's Report

- Rabbi Jay involved in several groups and discussions including the mayor, police, and protesters
- He also reported troubling events including emails and phone calls attacking his integrity, some with anti-Semitic language, some calling him a white supremacist, some calling him an anti-police sympathizer. The personal and anti-Semitic attacks are deeply troubling for him and he has concerns for the safety of his family and the congregation he serves which have weighed heavily on his soul. He will not seek another term on HRC or an officer position but will continue work through the end of his term – January 5.
- Ellen stated the HRC should respond with a statement. All agreed that we are 'one voice' and should release a statement pushing back against these attacks on Rabbi Jay.

5. Election of Officers – unanimous in favor of below officers

- Delia Busby - Chair
- Stan Friedman - Vice Chair
- Candace Woods - Secretary
- Alex Morlang - Treasurer

6. Black Lives Matter protests / Police Transparency & Accountability follow-up

- Rabbi Jay observed that there is still no ordinance authorizing the formation of a commission and yet the process of applications and selection by the Council is going forward. More than 600 applications have been received.
- Candace shared her concern about the lack of openness by the Council, Council's limited willingness to receive input from the community and lack of openness and accessibility for relevant commissions and other organizations. Ellen affirmed the need to express in writing our concerns about process. Bert said he shared these concerns and added the importance of addressing them to avoid disastrous outcomes and not serving the community. Delia observed that we had a consensus on the importance of authenticity on these very serious issues and offered to receive input for a statement. She will work with Catherine to create a draft to bring to the next meeting.

7. Presentation: Tom Sheppard, movie director exploring stories of LGBTQ refugees from MENA

- Alex suggested exploring the opportunity to bring in nonprofits working with immigrant and LGBTQ groups through the work of Tom Sheppard. Candace, as Youth Program Manager of Inside Out and with connections to the Immigrant Rights movement, expressed willingness to work on this. Anjali also offered to be a resource, given that her organization (Ithaka) works with immigrants and housing. Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival was mentioned as another resource. Candace moved that an ad hoc subcommittee of Alex, Candace, and Anjali move forward with this project, this was approved with a unanimous vote.

8. Scheduling

- ethics training - will be scheduled for our August meeting. This will include specifics of rules for communicating with other member of the commission. Rabbi Jay and Catherine clarified that we can share information with all members if they are blind copied, and when we reply to a BCC only the person sending and those copied will receive it, not all those who are included in the BCC.
- summer brainstorming session - will be schedule for an extra meeting in August, to be arranged after Catherine connects with a recommended facilitator.

9. Other Business

- Stan inquired about ways to enhance our internal communication and it was suggested that we send our phone numbers to Catherine who will compile an internal roster for us.

10. Adjourn

- There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

Submitted by Candace Woods
Secretary

with the scribing help of Ellen Johnson-Fay (meeting volunteer) and Kim Sannes (previous Secretary)