

Topeka Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2015

Commissioners met on April 6, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for the March monthly meeting
Holliday Building – Conference Room
620 SE Madison Street
Topeka, KS 66603

To request an ADA accommodation, please contact 368-3606 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. no later than 3 working days in advance of this meeting.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Human Relations Commission is to conduct outreach and educational activities that promote justice and cultural understanding, and improve relationships among all citizens of the City of Topeka.

Commissioners present:

Ms. Lorean Williams
Ms. Amy Cohen
Ms. Stephanie Mott
Ms. Darcella Goodman
Mr. Bill Beachy
Ms. Joyce Grigsby

Commissioners absent:

Mr. Mike Padilla
Mr. Anthony Fadale
Ms. Margo Rangel

I. Call to order – Commissioner

Noting a quorum, Stephanie Mott, Chair, called the meeting at order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence

III. Approval of Agenda

Amy made a motion to move Bicycle and Safety/Bully Prevention to first on the list due to time constraints of the presenters. Bill seconded the motion. No discussion.
Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

V.

Stephanie motioned to adopt the minutes as amended; Bill seconded. No discussion.
Motion carried.

VI. Staff Report

Monique Glaude or Shane Wilson with the Department of Neighborhood Relations will be available for assistance for future HRC meetings.

VII. New Business

- *Bicycle and Safety/Bully Prevention*

Andy Frye and Karl Fundenberger shared a drafted ordinance to protect pedestrians on the sidewalk or cyclists from verbal abuse or intimidation and objects being thrown at them. They are asking for support from the HRC. Stephanie asked if council woman Hiller has seen the drafted ordinance, Andy & Karl were not sure. Stephanie has 2 legal questions regarding the drafted ordinance:

- Does this fall under the HRC?
- Does this violate the first Amendment.

Lorean questioned if there is already a law in place that this would fall under. Joyce asked if any other cities have adopted this and how has it worked for them. Karl is going to gather more information and present that to HRC on a later date.

- *Hands on the wheel initiative*

Stephanie recommended a TPD officer come to a meeting and discuss the hands on the wheel initiative.

- *Human Relations Issuing Public Statement*

Amy motioned to make a public statement regarding the response of the Kansas Legislature to Representative Valdenia Winn speaking out against racism and bigotry. Darcella Seconded. Statement would read as follows. "The Topeka Human Relations Commission supports the right for anyone to speak out against prejudice and discrimination without fear or retaliation."

VIII. Committee Reports

- *Prejudice & Poverty Committee Update*

The available training session dates are April 12th; April 25th or April 26th. The two sessions will be four hours. The dates listed above are only for the first session. Stephanie recommended someone from the city of Topeka's Diversity Committee to attend or someone from the Human Resources Department. Stephanie will confirm the finalized date with the facilitator.

Monique has scheduled the Holliday conference room for April 25th 8:00 – noon as a tentative back-up training session location.

- *Troy Scroggins Award Committee Update*

It was recommended that public service announcements about the award be created by City 4 and shown on all mainstream media outlets. Stephanie asked what kind of Publicity City 4 could do for the Award. A timeline for the PSA and press release are needed.

Amy made a motion to extend nominations to May29th, Bill seconded Nominations should be brought to the May 4th meeting to have the award ready to be presented on the June 2nd or June 9th city council meeting.

- *Town Hall Committee Meeting Update*

"Get Out & Vote" date is June 18th. The emphasis for constituents is "What's at stake or risk when you choose to vote or not vote." Constituents need to be involved in how they receive their services- your vote does count.

HRC is not able to do much without having any money. Billboards were discussed; Lorena stated they couldn't even do a MLK dinner.

IX. **Old Business**

Marketing Initiatives – Monique will contact City 4 about attending a future meeting.

Ban the Box – The board would like to invite Human Resources Director Jacque Russell to discuss the issue. Stephanie is meeting with Chief Ron Brown to discuss the concern. The state of Georgia as well as Wyandotte County has implemented the initiative. Stakeholders should also be invited to discuss Ban the Box.

HCCI – Teresa Baker is the new president of HCCI. She has added HRC to attend the April 14th city council meeting and they will be first on the agenda. Lorean stated that 2 activities have been scheduled at the Holliday conference room. April 13th from 9:00-11:15 will be a presentation for land lords and 1:00-2:45 for tenants.

X. **Public Comments**

None.

XI. Commissioner remarks

Joyce –.

Darcella – Thanked everyone for attending the funeral and for the card.

Lorean – Wants to make sure everyone gets out to vote.

Bill – Thinks the meetings are great and that the HRC has functional chairs.

Amy – No remarks.

Stephanie – wanted to acknowledge those that have expiring terms and is excited about where the HRC is headed.

XII. Adjournment

Motion made by Amy to adjourn the meeting. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be May 4, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Shane Wilson.