

Topeka Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2015

Commissioners met on June 1, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for the June 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. Joyce Grigsby
Ms. Stephanie Mott
Ms. Darcella Goodman
Mr. Bill Beachy

Commissioners absent:

Mr. Mike Padilla
Ms. Darcella Goodman
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

Bill made a motion to adopt the agenda and Amy seconded. No Discussion. Motion carried

IV. Approval of Minutes

Bill motioned to adopt the minutes as amended. Lorean seconded. Motion carried.

V. Staff Report

Monique went over the following items with the HRC staff

- Rock The Block at HPHS
- Volunteer Program
- Blighted Properties
- Volunteer Program- Christmas in April
- “How To” workshops

VI. Committee Reports

• ***Prejudice & Poverty Committee Update***

• **Social Justice Education Training**

Stephanie will send an email requesting a meeting date, schedule an additional training. The HRC would like to meet with the City Manager and Mayor and share objectives. Have future meetings at Library. It is \$25 for visual aid.

• **Multi Agency Meeting**

Amy stated the turn out for the meeting was good and thanked the commissioners. HRC needs to brain storm ideas related to barriers and proactive measures against discrimination. The next meeting is June 4th from 5:30-7:00 at TSCPL in the Menninger room. It was good to get others perspectives. HRC needs to have refreshments at the next meeting.

Stephanie wants to empower youth with disabilities. There is a community conversation on poverty on Tuesday June 16th, there is a fee for attendees. Stephanie encouraged as many commissioners as possible to attend. Need to extend the invitation to everyone. Kansas Peace & Justice will assist in passing out materials.

• ***Troy Scroggins Award Committee Update***

1st nomination in June. Stephanie is nominating Dr. Sharon Sullivan from Washburn University. The HRC committee accepts the nomination. She will accept at June 9th City Council meeting. Stephanie will continue to find out particulars. Stephanie will contact her and will forward verbiage to be on the website.

• ***Town Hall Committee Meeting Update***

June 18th at the Holliday Building from 6:00-7:00pm is the next Town Hall meeting. Mark Stock from the SNCO Election office will be the presenter. Flyer will be emailed to commissioners and the event posted on social media sites. Next year put the information in newsletters. We need to remind people to vote regardless of who is on the ballot and to keep pushing information for those to vote. Extend invitation to Women’s league of voters.

VII. **Old Business**

- **PSA's and Other Promotional Activities**

Put contact info on HRC website, Stephanie will be contact person. HRC needs to update their Facebook page and continue to post events. Inquire with the Interim City Attorney on what can be posted. Minutes from meetings should also be posted. Ask City 4 about PSA's. HRC needs to have a brochure with all the information and meetings that they have.

- **City of Topeka Non-Discrimination Ordinance**

Keep on agenda how the HRC feels about amendment to include sexual orientation. HRC is open to the conversation.

VIII. **New Business**

- **Budget**

HRC needs to approve line item budget, please email document to Monique. Have Community conversation, send 6 commissioners to training.

- **City Housing Survey**

Have DNR survey included and show results. Questions on discrimination didn't include discrimination and sexual orientation. HRC should be involved in next survey. Invite Corrie and DNR Director Sasha Stiles to next meeting.

- **July Meeting**

Stephanie reached out to Islamic Center & Temple Beth Sholom. Mike and Anthony are unsure of their future with the HRC. August 31st terms end. Invitations have been sent to the City Manager and Mayor. The Mayor informed Stephanie that there will be an announcement forth coming.

IX. **Public Comments**

None.

X. **Commissioner remarks**

Joyce- FBI contacted her-Coming to Topeka. Bill Beachy accompanied her. NAACP provided her with contact information. Inform if she is needed of assistance please contact them.

Lorean – Keep track of activities, monitory basis update will be helpful.

Bill – Appreciates the good meeting

Amy – Appreciates the commissioners comments and looks forward to the Troy Scroggins Award

Stephanie – Thanked Monique, Shane and the City of Topeka. Wants to create a different tomorrow for people. She would like to talk with the City Manager. Pride Prom June 19th 8:00pm at Serendipity, everyone is welcome. Positive connections fundraiser on June 27th at 7:45 pm.

XI. Adjournment

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

The next meeting will be July 6, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Shane Wilson.