

Topeka Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2015

Commissioners met on October 5, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for the October 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
Ms. Crystal Irwin

Commissioners absent:

None

I. Call to order – Commissioner

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

A. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence

B. Approval of Agenda

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

C. Approval of Minutes

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

II. Staff Report

- Troy Scroggins Award

Monique will need a press release from the HRC to put on social media. Monique spoke with Carlton Scroggins and once he speaks to his family and has the answers to her questions she will pass along that information to the rest of the HRC.

III. **Presentation**

A. **Director of the Division of Housing Services, Corrie Wright**

- **Emergency Repair Program**

The emergency repair program is intended to help homeowners make repairs to immediate health or safety problems such as the following items: Sewer Line, Water Heater, Significant Water, Waste or Gas line leakage and roof replacement. The first \$1,500 of assistance is a grant and not repaid. When Home owner assistance is greater than \$1,500 it requires a mortgage to be filed between the City and homeowner through a deferred Loan. The deferred loan program requires no monthly payments or interest on the loan. The loan does not have to be paid back until the house is sold or the applicant ceases to live in the house. During the first seven years of the loan 50% of the original repair cost is forgiven provided the applicant has resided in the property during that time. After the seventh year the remaining 50% of the loan is a permanent mortgage on the property and is only paid back when the house is sold, refinanced or transferred. For questions or applications please Call Tony Salazar at 785-368-3711.

- **Accessibility Program**

The accessibility Program provides modifications to residential homes for individuals with physical disabilities who are either homeowners or renters. The assistance is provided to gain: One access to the home, exterior ramp, modifications to bathroom or access to one bathroom and/or bedroom. The assistance is provided as a one-time grant and not repaid. Individuals with verified physical disabilities whose primary residence is within the city limits of Topeka, Kansas and the residence may be either homeowner-occupied or renter-occupied. Home owners are able to have \$4,000 exterior/Interior as opposed to renters who are just able to have exterior. Corrie will email the income levels for each program. For questions or applications please Call Tony Salazar at 785-368-3711.

- **Shelter Plus Care**

The Shelter Plus Care is federally funded program with the grant being \$1.6 million a year. It is designed to help those with a disability or homelessness a residence to live. Shelter Plus Care participants pay 30% of their monthly income. There are currently 235 Shelter Plus Care participants and around 650 throughout the year. HUD considers 7 months to be a successful SPC participant and around 90% of the SPC participants stay longer than 7 months in the City of Topeka.

IV. **Committee Reports**

- ***Prejudice & Poverty Committee Update***

- **Social Justice Education Training**

The next Social Justice Education Training will not be until 2016.

- **Multi Agency Meeting**

Amy sent out multi agency minutes and hasn't heard back when they would be able to meet again. Bill asked that Amy send minutes to commissioners.

- **Troy Scroggins Award Committee Update**

- Monique will need a press release from the HRC to put on social media. Monique spoke with Carlton Scroggins and once he speaks to his family and has the answers to her questions she will pass along that information to the rest of the HRC. Amy will get press release to Monique and close the nominations 30 days from the date that Monique receives the press release.

- **Town Hall Committee Meeting Update**

Lorean stated that the town hall meeting was very informative and thanked commissioners for attending. Lazone Gray will be working with HRC on "Ban the Box" on ways to continue to inform people about ban the box. HRC would like to invite a business that has already banned the box to come to a future meeting and speak about their experience with ban the box. Bill thinks the flyer might be a little too busy for people to look at.

V. **Old Business**

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

No new information, need to take pictures off website of old commissioners.

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

This discussion will be tabled until the next HRC meeting.

- **Budget**

This discussion will be tabled until the next HRC meeting.

VI. **New Business**

- **Honoring Past Commissioners**

Stephanie would like to send a card to past commissioners honoring the service to the HRC. Shane will make sure thank you cards are present at the November meeting for HRC commissioners to sign.

VII. **Public Comments**

None.

VIII. Commissioner remarks

Joyce- Went to Law Enforcement training and it was very informative.

Crystal- No comment.

Lorean – would like another HRC notebook.

Bill – Is thankful to be a part of the group.

Amy – Thanked everyone for being at the October meeting and that Topeka Pride was a big success this year.

Stephanie – Thanked the City for their support and all the commissioners for being present. She will be a guest speaker for TedX in Topeka

IX. Adjournment

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

The next meeting will be November 2, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Shane Wilson.