

Topeka Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2013

Commissioners met on August 5, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. for the August 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 by phone
Ms. Margo Rangel
Ms. Joyce Grigsby
Mr. Bill Beachy
Ms. Darcella Goodman
Ms. Stephanie Mott

Commissioners absent: Ms. Renee Wiggins
Ms. Joyce Rorie
Mr. Anthony Fadale

City Present: Ms. Shawn Maisberger

I. Call to order – Commissioner

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence

III. Adoption of Agenda

Bill made a motion to adopt the agenda; Margo. seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Stephanie made a motion to adopt the July 1 minutes as amended; Bill seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried.

V. Staff Report

- Shawn showed the new website and where commissioners could find the HRC information. Additional links can be put on the site as commissioners which to add them. She asked for additional ideas, etc. for the site.

- Shawn reported that she met with legal staff on whether or not commissioners could participate by phone. Staff reported that commissioner could participate by phone but could not vote according to the HRC bylaws. Margo stated that it is difficult to participate by phone due to the set up and discussion is hard to follow. Stephanie recommended having a better phone set up that using a cell phone. Lorean mentioned that it was to be used for emergencies and not to be used all the time. Stephanie inquired if changes the bylaws is there anything else that would need to happen. It is only required in the bylaws. After discussion the commission chose to keep the bylaws the same and not change anything.
- Shawn will send notice to all commissioners on the legal decision.

VI. New Business

- Media Plan
 - Shawn introduced Suzie Gilbert the City's Communication & Marketing Director.
 - Suzie reviewed the City's draft social media policy. Answered questions about appropriate information and sharing on social media.
 - Suzie agreed to continue monitoring and providing assistance.
- Proposed legislation
 - Stephanie offered to write a letter for the chair to the governing body on proposed legislation
- September meeting
 - Commission discussed on a proposed meeting date due to the first Monday of September is a holiday. Bill made a motion. Joyce seconded to move the meeting from Monday to Thursday, September 5, 2013 same time and location. No further discussion. Motion carried.

VII. Old Business

- *Town Hall Committee Meeting Update*
 - Margo has a meeting scheduled with Nancy Johnson on August 14 at 3:30 pm at Avondale East to discuss program option. She believes they are on target and the focus would be on public housing with individuals with felony convictions. How long are individual punished for decisions and the effect on the minority priorities.
 - Meeting end of September –mid October
 - Discuss potential partnership with THA. She will wait until she meets with Nancy until inviting others. Stephanie will try to attend as well.
- *Troy Scroggins Award Committee Update*
 - No report. The committee has not met.
 - Due to Joyce's schedule and time commitments, she is resigning as committee chair.
 - Stephanie agreed to serve as the new chair of the committee.
- *Prejudice & Poverty Committee Update*
 - The committee has is scheduled to meet on Saturday.

- The committee will be researching and evaluating the effects on individuals. They will reach out to organization including youth and bring back information and get ideas on how they wish the committee to proceed. They hope to include groups such as the NAACP.
- Bill requested an update/clarification on the purpose and what the commission will do with the results.
- Stephanie shared and they will bring back all results and recommendations to the committee for future discussion.

VIII. Public Comments

- None.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Mott – she will be attending and participating in a panel discussion on the National Lesbian and Gay journalists in Boston September 3-6.

Commissioner Beachy – he is glad to be back. He was visiting with family in Dallas – his aunt is 98 and his hero.

Commissioner Grigsby –nothing more to report.

Commissioner Goodman – she has been appointed to the board for Doorstep by Temple Beth Shalom. She is interested in the outreach.

Commissioner Rangel – she is looking forward to the town hall meeting and the meeting with Nancy. She will be attending the Civil Rights Symposium in Overland Park. She will also be attending the Mana conference in September in Houston

Commissioner Williams –She encourages the commissioners to do more to make a difference in someone’s life because it could be us next time. Continue to work hard and she appreciates everything everyone does for the Commission.

Shawn – announced Renee Wiggins resignation and read her letter.

X. Adjournment

Commission meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be September 5, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Shawn Maisberger.