

# Topeka Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes  
November 4, 2013

Commissioners met on November 4, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. for the November 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. Margo Rangel  
   Ms. Joyce Grigsby  
   Mr. Bill Beachy  
   Ms. Stephanie Mott  
   Mr. Mike Padilla  
   Mr. Anthony Fadale

Commissioners absent:      Ms. Darcella Goodman

Guest:                              Councilmember Karen Hiller

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**  
Mike made a motion to adopt the agenda; Bill seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.
- IV. Approval of Minutes**  
Stephanie made a motion to adopt the October 2013 minutes; Bill seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.
- V. Staff Report**
  - No report.
- VI. Old Business**

- *Town Hall Committee Meeting Update*
  - Margo reported on the wonderful THM and noted that all commissioners were in attendance but one which was great. She will work on a summary report for the commissioners and could be posted on the website and shared with the public and council.
  - Margo will send pictures from the event and would post to the website and Facebook sites.
  - It was suggested to invite Darin Scott to a future meeting to get an update on his activities. Shawn will contact Cpt Scott.
  - Lorean mentioned that his activities and new plans could be a future THM.
  - The THM received positive media coverage.
  
- *Troy Scroggins Award Committee Update*
  - Reminder that the award presentation is December 10 for YWCA Girls on the Run. Stephanie reported that Amy Pinger and Joyce Martin plan to attend to receive the award.
  - Stephanie will send Shawn a write up on them. The group trains for 5K but it more about empowering the girls and embracing diversity. Approximately 300 student in the program and have participated multiple times.
  - Stephanie will present the award.
  - Stephanie requested a write up /media release on the award presentation and will make sure they invite the participants.
  
- *Prejudice & Poverty Committee Update*
  - Stephanie reported that it has been on the back burner until after the THM.
  - There are several different ways to go about it and she would like to host a workshop or gathering to see what committee could do and provide input in order to narrow the focus and concentrate on either folks of color or African American descent.
  - Margo asked for clarification on the stats. Stephanie would like the stats to help connect the dots better and provide analog information. The committee will also help connect the dots.
  - Long term to ensure the other entities together and HRC make the connection. Bill suggested that people tell their stores it has the most impact.
  - There are different avenues to accomplish it will depend on what the Commission wants to do. Commissioners offered to help where needed.
  - Mike inquired about other partners – topic has been discussed through the visioning process.
  - Councilmember Hiller offered that the visioning process put ideas into buckets and others got attention to follow through. She recommended seeing what issues that could be improved through the Commission and it could serve and take it on as their own leadership. This would also allow them to think about what is next. She will get the visioning project to commissioners.
  - She also mentioned that Councilmember Schmidt is putting together a symposium for heritage and legacy related to the Brown v Board the week of May 11-17. There is an opportunity to get involved with him too.

- Anthony will check with the national park service to see what events are being planned as well.
- The events offer the commission the potential to provide leadership and assist locally, nationally, and globally. Something meaningful for folks.
- Mike – let’s go back on list and review while they are fresh.
- Lorean suggested partnering with a council person on HRC items. Councilmember Hiller said a partnership with Councilmember is good especially on issues that are important. They can help provide wisdom to explore the issue but help focus. To raise issues and fix it is a good plan.
- Mike requested to invite William Beteta to the next meeting to give an update on the heartland visioning campaign to help identify the needs. Shawn will invite to the December meeting. Stephanie will include him in their committee discussions.
- Commission decided they need to market themselves better on what they have done to make change and motivate the community. To continue to build on the momentum they are creating. Build on existing relationships with the media and make new ones.
- Stephanie will be gone for the December meeting but will try to have a written report available.
- She would also like to see the Topeka Metro offer Sunday services again. People lost jobs when they cut that service.

#### **VII. New Business**

- Anthony discussed the December 2 next HRC meeting date to see if there are conflicts. Anthony, Stephanie and Joyce will not be able to attend. The commission agreed to proceed with the meeting as scheduled.
- By-Laws – Stephanie made a motion to affirm the language and reflect the change adopted by the City Council on the commission’s role. Margo seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

#### **VIII. Public Comments**

- Councilmember Hiller is always welcome. She stated that she was here to sit in and listen. It was fun to be a part of the language change of the scope of the commission. She is pleased that there is a better connection and guidance for the commission. She offered to help if there is something she could do.

#### **IX. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Fadale – THM went well. The Nat’l Consult on Disabilities is coming to Topeka December 4/5 for 2 days to discuss Can Care and Medicaid issues. He is working to make sure it’s accessible and helping to make sure their visit is successful. He will report back to the commission on the meeting. Kansas is part of the National mix with input the community should be pleased it is hosting the meeting.

Commissioner Grigsby –the Freedom Fund Banquet was the last Saturday in October and glad to see some commissioners there. They had 280 people and had young people there too maybe 100 of them.

Commissioner Rangel – she plans to make a report to the governing body in December. She was very pleased with the overall THM and pleased with the support and partnership from Nancy. She was inspiring and she needs the community help. She would like to hear from Darin and William and see what future THM they could coordinate.

Commissioner Beachy – left meeting early.

Commissioner Mott – she would like to see HRC be listed on the HRC pink cards and in the resource book. She is speaking to a sociology class at Shawnee Heights High School, Newton on the weekend, KU staff, Pittsburg, KU class, 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Candle Light Vigil and KSU day of remembrance.

Commissioner Padilla – Question to Councilmember Hiller – would copies of the HRC minutes be helpful to councilmembers? She said they get a lot of correspondence and it is better face-to-face communication such as with the awards and other interaction is best. Also noted that it is better to put items on different colored paper helps. Sending information to Ginny in the council office and her sending out emails can be helpful too.

Commissioner Williams –She appreciates Shawn for being the liaison to the commission. All commissioners to help with issues that matter to people and families in the city. Make sure that they keep it going you have her contact information if you need her. She thanked Councilmember Hiller for attending and she is always welcome as well as the other councilmembers. She is judging at the American Royal Beauty Pageant this weekend.

#### **X. Adjournment**

Commission meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be December 2, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Shawn Maisberger.