

Topeka Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2014

Commissioners met on February 3, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. for the February 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
Ms. Stephanie Mott
Mr. Anthony Fadale

Commissioners absent: Ms. Jean Darbyshire
Mr. Bill Beachy
Mr. Mike Padilla

Guest: Ms. Darcella Goodman

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. Approval of Minutes

Anthony made a motion to adopt the minutes; Margo seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

IV. Staff Report

- No report. Deferred to next meeting.

V. Old Business

- *Town Hall Committee Meeting Update*
 - Margo reported that they are gathering information regarding the bid process for businesses that are interested in bidding for City of Topeka Contracts. Lorean has received several calls from Topeka minority contractors stating that they are having difficulties obtaining certification, allowing them to bid.
 - There were comments 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.

- *Troy Scroggins Award Committee Update*
 - No report.

- *Prejudice & Poverty Committee Update*
 - Stephanie provided commissioners with stats from the U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Rates for Detailed Race and Hispanic Groups by State and Place, Census Bureau, Employment Rate stats by race, sex, and age, Breakdown by races of poor residents in Topeka in percentages, DO Something. org " 11 Facts About Racial Discrimination", and information from a study conducted by researchers at the University of Chicago and MIT regarding the many shades of privilege.
 - Committee is working on putting together a public forum to discuss privilege and would like to provide a series of workshops regarding this topic. The committee will be provide an outline/agenda at the March meeting.

VI. New Business

VII. Public Comments

VIII. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Fadale

- Spoke w/Dave Schaffer and he has welcomed the HRC Commissioners to partake in Brown v Board activities
- Anthony was the State Coordinator for the NC Disability conference. See KHI website for info. Note: I asked Anthony to e-mail you with the full details. Info can be used for annual report of Commissioners activities.

Commissioner Mott

- Scoggins award this quarter is "Individual". Sending Shawn the public notice, will be awarded June 2014.
- Capitol City Now conference being held at WU, February 15th 2014. Geared toward empowering women in addition to speakers the all day event also provided workshops
- February 19th, 2014 Topic of Conference "Do I Trust God Enough"?

Commissioner Grigsby

- No Comment

Commissioner Rangel

- Made mention of two proposed House Bills:

HB 2554 An act concerning marriage; repealing the statutory prohibition on marriages between two person of the same gender.

HB 2560 Concerning minimum wage, increasing the wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$10.10

Commissioner Williams

- Do those things that matter. People have lost a sense of what matters. Someone has to be the voice when they think don't have one. Opportunity to make a difference in the things that matter. Don't shy away from the things that matter in our lives. Giving one, the community the education/tools needed to make a difference, it does matter.

IX. Adjournment

Commission meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be March 3, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Vice Chair Margo Rangel.