

Topeka Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2016

Commissioners met on January 4, 2016 at 5:46 p.m. for the January 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. Stephanie Mott
Ms. Darcella Goodman
Ms. Crystal Irwin

Commissioners absent:

Mr. Bill Beachy

I. Call to order – Commissioner

Noting a quorum, Stephanie Mott, Chair, called the meeting at order at 5:46 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence

B. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Williams made a motion to adopt the agenda and Commissioner Goodman seconded. No Discussion. Motion carried

C. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Williams motioned to adopt the December 2015 minutes as amended. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Motion carried.

II. Staff Report

• DNR Staff Report

Director Sasha Haehn shared information on the Property Maintenance & Code Special Structures Unit which was allocated \$400,000 of demolition funds. This new initiative was implemented in January 2016 and demolition activity will begin in the spring.

Please mark your calendars for an upcoming training on “*How to Get Your Deposit Back?*” The purpose of the program is to educate tenants for the sole purpose of preventing them from being taken advantage of by landlords. Sasha invited HRC to be a part of the training.

HRC Work Plan for 2016

Director Haehn inquired on the following:

- What would you want to do in 2016?
- Do you want to attend training?
- What are 4 to 5 items you want to work on?
- Do you have expenditures identified for your 2016 \$2,500 budget?
- The Department of Neighborhood Relations needs to be prepared for upcoming HRC events in order to assist you to the fullest.

Development of a marketing plan

- HRC PSA (Topeka In Two)
- Town Hall PSA
- March 10th Town Hall Meeting – continuance of “Ban the Box” (off-site @ Topeka Housing Authority)
Participants – Jacque Russell, Chief James Brown, KDOC, Lazone Grays
It is vitally important to identify potential employers (Target, local mattress company, etc.).
- Media coverage – Topeka Capital Journal (Sasha will contact the neighborhood reporter Luke), WIBW Radio. In addition, Sasha will speak with Aly regarding the topic.
- HRC presence at local job fairs
- CRC presentation

HRC Remote Meeting Locations

- Monique made the suggestion to take the meetings into the community to help with attendance and HRC awareness in the community
- Potential facility hosts – Topeka Housing Authority, SNCO Community Centers, Neighborhood Leaders Roundtable, Citizens Advisory Council (CAC)

Training Opportunities

- Director Haehn suggested HRC converse with KHRC regarding training options
- Commissioner Irwin suggested the following
 1. Fair Housing Symposium
 2. Community Partnerships with other agencies
 3. USD 501 participation in larger meetings
- Commissioner Mott would like to make a presentation to the City Council regarding the HRC accomplishments
- Commissioner Williams suggests that HRC create a plan, schedule activities and create a Topeka In Two prior to presenting to the Council.

Tentative HRC Work Plan

- Four (4) off-site meetings
- Town Hall Meetings (quarterly)
- Troy Scroggins Award – June & December – individual and corporation
- Marketing Plan
 1. PSAs
 - a) HRC
 - b) Troy Scroggins Award
 - c) Town Hall
- Identify Job Fairs or Symposium
 1. Washburn Tech (location)
- Annual Report – work on the report at the December 2016 meeting

Martin Luther King Banquet

- Commissioners planning to attend:
 1. Commissioner Williams
 2. Commissioner Irwin
 3. Commissioner Beachy

- Persons joining Commissioners at their own expense
 1. Christine Claiborne
 2. Vera Jordan
 3. Gail Cheatham

III. **Committee Reports**

This agenda item was tabled until the March meeting.

IV. **Old Business**

This agenda item was tabled until the March meeting.

V. **New Business**

This agenda item was tabled until the March meeting.

VI. **Public Comments**

None

VII. **Commissioner remarks**

This agenda item was tabled until the March meeting.

VIII. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Commissioner Williams to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Goodman seconded. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be January 4, 2016 at 7:43 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Monique Glaude´