



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

JANUARY 7, 2016

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

THIRD FLOOR

CSAC – WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

Members present by roll call: Susan Timmons, Jacqueline Gerry, Mel Siyo, Lin Jennewein, Jamie Al-Haj and Merton Tice, Jr.

Absent: Andy Ainslie

Also present: Assistant City Attorney Wade Nyberg, Legal Administrative Secretary, Stacy Lunde-Roduner.

Timmons called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

ADOPT AGENDA

Tice moved to adopt the agenda. Second Gerry. Motion carried.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2015 MEETING

Gerry moved to approve the December 3, 2015 minutes. Second by Jennewein. Motion carried.

UPDATE ON PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Timmons will contact Tim Reilly with Midcontinent to schedule a meeting in February to discuss a new version of the Public Service Announcement (PSA).

Midcontinent ran the PSA during the Lakota Nation Invitational (LNI) tournament. The Native Sun News also ran the notice during the LNI.

DISCUSSION ON COMMUNITY MEETINGS IN DECEMBER

Al-Haj attended one of the sub-committee Community Conversations meetings in November.

Timmons attended a Community Conversations meeting prior to the LNI tournament as well. She stated they had speakers on sovereignty and a couple of other issues.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING – PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

The Commission completed in-service training on public accommodations (service animals, emotional support animals) and hand-outs were provided for each Commission member's handbook.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND 2016 PLANNING

a) Frequently Asked Questions – The Commission is working to complete the list by the end of January for approval at the February meeting. Timmons, Gerry and Tice will assist Attorney Nyberg in completion of this list. (Nyberg will email the proposed list and set up a time to meet)

b) Elevator Speech – Gerry sent out a draft to the Commission for review:

“We safeguard equal opportunities of all citizens of Rapid City by resolving conflict, settling complaints of discrimination and promoting cooperation within the community. We do this by using the tools of fact finding, training, information sharing, community education, mediation, cultural literacy, and conflict management.”

Siyo and Al-Haj really like the speech and believe it could be used as the Commission's objective as well. Al-Haj moved to adopt this statement as the Commission's elevator speech as written. Second by Tice. Further discussion held on the possibility of making this the Commission's mission statement. Al-Haj moved to amend her initial motion to adopt the first sentence as the Commission's mission statement. Motion amendment died for lack of second. Tice suggested to change “we safeguard equal opportunities” to read “to safeguard equal opportunities” to better fit a mission statement. Al-Haj moved to amend her original motion to adopt the first sentence as amended as the Commission's mission statement. (Change “we safeguard equal opportunities” to “to safeguard equal opportunities.”) And then add the second sentence as written to the mission statement to complete the elevator speech. Second by Tice. Motion carried.

c) Discussion and Direction Regarding Laptop – Al-Haj has a laptop that she will sell to the HRC for \$175.00. Nyberg stated the laptop is okay to be purchased from Al-Haj because it is a small purchase and “good value” and he recommends the Commission vote on the purchase. A surplus laptop may become available in the next couple of months. No vote was taken. In the meantime, Al-Haj has approved the laptop for the Commission to use on loan from her business.

Gerry has not received a commitment from the Chamber to schedule a date to present the PowerPoint. Timmons encourages everyone to compile a list of organizations to present to and she would like to get out and begin presenting.

Drew asked the Commission to present at the Mayor's Disability Committee meeting in March. She will contact Timmons to give further details.

d) Discussion to revise brochure is continued until the February meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

None.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

Al-Haj informed the Commission that former Mayor Sam Kooiker fell and broke his pelvis on Christmas Eve and will have to undergo extensive therapy. She suggested sending a gift (card, book or plant) from the Commission. The Commission agreed to send a book. Al-Haj will drop the book off at the Attorney's office for the Commission to sign.

Semi-Annual Report – Timmons consulted with the Commission members as to what they would like to include in the report. Al-Haj would like to include that the Commission is reaching out to other organizations that are related to HRC issues and participating in their meetings. The report will be presented to the City Council on January 19, 2016.

CASE STATUS UPDATE – CITY ATTORNEY

Nyberg reported the he has not met with anyone in the past month and there are no active cases pending.

LIAISON REPORT

Drew updated the Commission on City Council happenings:

The issue of P.O. Box voters is being discussed. The Mayor has stated it is a State issue and must contact legislators.

The Library has opened its History of Geology room and is working with surrounding areas to have their information available too.

The code of conduct complaint against Jerry Wright will be investigated by a former FBI agent.

Cultural plan for Rapid City will hold their final meeting tomorrow. It is a 20 year plan paid for by Rapid City Arts Council. The six goals were: 1) education for creativity; 2) cultural equity; 3) cultural tourism – local audience development; 4) non-profit organization sustainability; 5) creative economic development; and 6) cultural leadership.

BUDGET UPDATE

Lunde stated the current budget amount is \$1,000.00.

SET DATE AND TIME OF NEXT HRC MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Gerry moved to adjourn. Second by Al-Haj. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 3:31 p.m.