

Meeting Place: Remote

Meeting Called To Order: 6:02, Monday, October 19, 2020

Role Call: Loreen Flockerzie, Daniel Yalowitz, Kaj Pratt, Peter Michael Smith, Carolyn McDaniel, Wendy Stebbins Robinson, Wid Perry,

Not Present: Maureen Lyons, Tracey Burley

Others Present: Mayor Roxanne Wedegartner, Gretchen Green (interested community member, hopeful future HRC Member)

A motion was made to approve the September Minutes, seconded and approved.

Mayor Wedegartner offered her vision for the Human Rights Commission and answered our questions.

- She feels that the new and fully staffed HRC is important and timely given our current events.

- November 3rd National Election will give us a pulse but we will continue to do our work as a welcoming community no matter the results – racial equality, racial justice, and economic diversity.

- The Mayor encouraged the HRC to chart its own course by

- Planning Community events (such as Town Halls and Forums)

- Address Diversity Issues

- Promote Economic Diversity and inclusive businesses.

- Become better known and influential with more publicity.

- The Mayor had hoped for a more diverse Commission but encouraged and excited by the diverse background of life experience we bring.

- Hopeful that over time the HRC can establish how to present and what to do.

- She encouraged us to utilize Keith Barnicle as the Communications Director to help us get our message out.

Group Discussion:

- Coming up with issues to address (fuel assistance, homelessness, gender equality).

- Utilizing (and teaming with) other resources/agencies/groups to help promote our mission and working together.
- Utilizing The Recorder and the City's website, Facebook and Twitter to promote our Commission.
- Coming together as a new group to establish our identity.
- What is the process for complaints and issues (i.e. do complaints go through City Hall to the HRC, or from the HRC to City Hall?). Can the HRC team with the Public Safety Commission to address broad issues?
- HRC Empowerment – how far can we go?
- Establishing consistent moving of agenda items.
- Who do we want to be (inspirations)?
- What are some of our legal/ethical roadblocks?
- Accept-Receive-Act.
- Establishing a Step By Step Process for HRC.
- Keeping the Mayor informed but not necessary micro-managing.
Allowing the HRC to be reasonably independent.
- Achieving an HRC Seat at the table with other groups, including the Mayor's team (i.e. "cabinet meetings with chair/co-chairs of the various City Committees and Commissions) to establish a broad but focused intent and cross-communication as an Advisory Council (The Mayor is considering such options).
- An active, structured, involved Commission leading the conversation with structured approach inputs.
- What are the needs that are not being served?
- Being cautious of not duplicating work (or solutions).
- Addressing obvious issues vs. not so obvious issues.
- When national or state events happen that involve issues that pertain to us, utilizing the HRC in conjunction with the Mayor's Office for a joint statement.
- Do we want to update our Mission Statement? Add a Vision Statement?
- Posting HRC Member Bios on the web sites so the community can get to know who is serving.
- Prioritizing our Goals.
- Establishing consistent successful communication with the Mayor's Office.

After the Mayor left the meeting, the group reviewed the discussion points. We also discussed:

- Becoming more confident with Open Meeting Laws
- Committing to “home work assignments” beyond our monthly meeting.
- Further discussion regarding the Mission Statement and becoming Committed to the Mission Statement.
- Espousing Human Rights

Motion: Form a sub-committee to explore/research a retreat possibility to present to the larger group (coming up with a plan for us to map out our goals and to get to know each other as a team). Motion seconded and approved.

Sub-committee: Daniel, Peter, Carolyn, Wendy.

We agreed to table the general conversation on specific issues until we have more of a direction as a group.

One member’s name is still missing from the HRC Website. Loreen will bring this to City Hall’s attention.

There is another training on Open Meeting Laws on October 27, 2020 10:00 AM . We should try to download the powerpoint presentation from the meeting.

We should invite Kathy Scott to the November meeting for a discussion on Open Meeting Laws.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded and approved, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 9th 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Submit agenda items to Loreen.