

CITY CLERK
2021 FEB -1 AM 10:45

MINUTES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
January 19, 2021 6:00 p.m.
Fourth Floor Conference Room, City Hall

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Members' Term Attendance</u> (mtgs attended-mtgs absent)	<u>End of Current Term of Office</u>
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Dr. Jennifer Jackson	(11-00)	10/08/22
	Rusty Summers	(17-03)	10/08/21
	Michael Jasper	(19-01)	10/08/22
	Sean Connors	(02-00)	10/08/23
	Terri Lowdon	(13-07)	10/08/23
	Bridget Supple	(14-06)	10/08/21
	Danielle McGaughy	(01-00)	10/08/23
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Hamilton Henderson	(11-06)	10/08/21
	Theo Williams	(06-05)	10/08/22
STAFF PRESENT:	Bryan Carter, City Attorney		
	Ben Williams, Recording Secretary		

Item #1 Call to Order

Summers called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL: McGaughy – Present via Zoom, Henderson – absent, Jackson – present via Zoom, Jasper – present via Zoom, Connors – present via Zoom, Lowdon – present via Zoom, Summers – present, Supple – present via Zoom, Williams – absent. Quorum is present.

Item #2 HRC Member Introduction

The Commission members each took turns introducing themselves.

Item #3 Election of Chair & Vice Chair

Summers opened the floor for Chair nominations. Jasper nominated Summers. Lowdow seconded. All in favor. Nomination passed.

Summers asked for Vice Chair nominations. Lowdow nominated Jasper. Summers seconded. All in favor. Nomination passed.

Item #4 Approval of minutes

Jackson moved to approve the minutes. Connors seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

Item #5 Old Business

Item #5a. Inclusion of Public Accommodation in Mediation Assistance

Summers asked for an update on public accommodation and mediation assistance. Carter stated that it was on the agenda during the work session to discuss conversion therapy, but it did not receive much discussion. Lowdow asked where it stands with the Council. Carter stated that a note was sent out in a weekly correspondence asking if anyone was interested in sponsoring an ordinance to include public accommodation in mediation assistance, but no Council members offered to sponsor it. Jasper inquired if the Commission could approach Councilmember Brian Myers about sponsor it. Carter stated anyone could talk to him. Summers asked if Jasper would be fine talking with Myers. Jasper said he would do it. Lowdon asked Jasper to remind Myers that the Commission is trying to provide a service for local companies because the program is all voluntary.

McGaughy asked for background information on the Non-Discrimination and public accommodation. Carter gave background information on the Non-Discrimination Ordinance and mediation assistance. McGaughy asked who the mediators were for the program. Carter stated that the commission identified three mediators who are local attorneys. Jasper inquired whether the mediation would be free to business as well as individuals. Carter stated that the City is not paying for it and that each of the individuals agreed to do it free of cost at the time they agreed to serve as mediators. Jasper stated that he believes that the three mediators agreed to do a certain number of hours for free. Carter stated he does not remember that, but he believes that the City may have an informal understanding with the mediators for whom the City paid for their mediation training. Carter stated that Gary Myers was already trained and the other attorneys still had to do that training and that they may have agreed to do a certain number of hours because of the training paid for by the City.

Item #5b. Update on Conversion Therapy Ban Ordinance

Summers inquired of the Commission if they wanted to push for a Conversion Therapy Ban Ordinance instead of a resolution. Jasper stated that the Commission should wait due to the polarity of politics at the moment. Jackson stated her agreement.

Item #5c. Related Old Business

None.

Item #6 New Business

Item #6a. Administration of HRC Facebook Page

Summers asked Connors for an update on the Facebook page. Connors stated that the page is live. Connors stated that he made a post about the meeting and how to go down to City Hall and join. Connors stated that he did not put the meeting link on the post. Connors believed that there would be a space provided at City Hall for the public. Carter stated that the link can be provided in the future when meeting by Zoom. Carter cautioned that the meeting may not function as well with a lot of people on Zoom. Connors stated that someone would have to moderate the Zoom. Carter stated that if the Commission wanted to do that then to let him know and he will push out the link. Jackson stated that she had a list of dates of things to put on the page. Connors stated that he put a Martin Luther King Jr. post on the page. Summers stated that if anyone wanted to put something on the Facebook page they need to contact Connors. The Commission members discussed what can and cannot be posted on the Facebook page.

Item #6b. Related New Business

McGaughy stated she could reach out to the Bartlett Center about coordinating a Black History Month activity. Lowdon stated that the commission could go down to the Center and do a meet & greet and get the Commission out there. McGaughy raised the possibility of partnering with Mid-City. Lowdon stated she would like to have a virtual forum to hear the concerns of the minorities in the community. Summers stated she would like McGaughy to ask around for different activities next month. Summers stated that the Commission needs to know more about what is going to happen in the community. Carter stated that the HRC could hold the meeting offsite as long as there is public access. Jackson stated that she is on the diversity committee at the University and that she can reach out and get in touch with the coordinator. Jackson stated that she would rather have a meet & greet instead of a meeting. Lowdown stated that she just wanted the floor to be open to listen to everyone. Carter stated that it is possible to set an agenda but the committee doesn't have to do the talking. Supple stated that the more people see them as a Commission then the more people who will support them with the counsel. The Commission inquired about purchasing new shirts and other general items. Carter stated that there is no budget for the HRC currently. Carter stated that he would request funding during the FY22 budget planning meeting. Lowdon inquired of Carter if the members could purchase their own matching shirts. Carter stated that he needed to look at the fine line between commission members receiving a gift for serving on the commission and something business related. Jasper asked if the Commission could receive donations because of a donation from the Chamber of Commerce. Carter stated that the Commission did not receive any money and explained that the Chamber paid the vendors directly; the Commission identified the expense and the Chamber paid the bill.

Item #7. City Staff Update

Carter stated that he will be submitting a budget request again this year. Carter stated he will also add a discussion for Black History Month planning onto the November meeting calendars going forward. Jackson stated that Women's History Month is in March. Carter inquired whether Jackson would like to have that topic added to the November calendar or in January for preparation discussion. Summers stated that she would like January. Carter stated he would keep Pride Month on the April agenda every year. Carter stated he had Juneteenth on the calendar for every March. Supple stated that the Commission should come up with a calendar with all these different events to aid in planning.

Item # 8. Public Comment

None.

Item # 9. Future Agenda Overview

Carter inquired if the Commission would like to add a standing agenda item to discuss Facebook posts that have been made the previous month and that are anticipated the next month. Commission members discussed and agreed with the idea.

Item # 10. Adjourn

Jackson motioned to adjourn. McGaughey seconded. 7:04 p.m.