

MINUTES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
May 18, 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 | (13-00) | 10/08/22 |
| | Michael Jasper | (21-01) | 10/08/22 |
| | Sean Connors | (04-00) | 10/08/23 |
| | Terri Lowdon | (15-07) | 10/08/23 |
| | Bridget Supple | (16-06) | 10/08/21 |
| | Danielle McGaughy | (03-00) | 10/08/23 |
| | David Mason | (02-00) | 10/08/21 |
| | Rusty Summers | (18-04) | 10/08/21 |
| MEMBERS ABSENT: | Theo Williams | (06-07) | 10/08/22 |
| STAFF PRESENT: | Bryan Carter, City Manager Jason Soper, Interim City Attorney Ben Williams, Recording Secretary | | |

Item #1 Call to Order

Summers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Item #2 Approval of Minutes

Supple moved to approve the minutes and Lowdon seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Item #3 Old Business

Item #3a Update on Human Rights Commission Facebook Page

Connors stated that he has continued to update the Facebook page. Summers inquired if all members were on the Facebook page. The members responded that they were. Connors asked the members if they would send him a paragraph bio to put on the Facebook page. Jackson stated she would prefer not to have her bio on the Facebook page.

Item #3b Related Old Business

None.

Item #4 New Business

Item #4a. Related New Business

There was general discussion about the use of the Human Rights Commission window clings.

Jasper inquired when Theo Williams' term ended. Carter stated it ended in October 2022. Jasper stated that he had attempted to reach out to Williams but was unable to make contact with him. Carter stated that he also had not received any email replies from Williams. Jasper stated that he feels that if Williams no longer wants to be on the Commission then he should be removed. Carter stated that he will reach out to Williams again to see if he wants to resign. Carter stated that there is a process for removal if that proves necessary.

Carter suggested that the Commission discuss whether they would like to continue the hybrid model of meeting or just go fully in person. There was group discussion on continuing with the hybrid model or terminating it. Carter stated that prior to COVID, the Commission met only in person and that in-person meetings seemed to lead to better discussion. Carter continued stating that it was only COVID that took the Commission to any sort of virtual model and that most boards and commissions are back to all in person meetings, but he stated that was the Commission's discretion.

Item #4b. Planning for June Meeting

Lowdon stated that it was her belief that the June meeting would be a listening session so the Commission could listen to the concerns of the Community. Lowdon then inquired of McGaughy what the Commission could do to get the best turn out for the meeting. McGaughy stated that the Commission could have a community forum. Carter stated that could be done, but if the Commission decides to do it as an official meeting then they will need to follow the formalities of calling the meeting to order, etc. Lowdon asked if McGaughy would put it out that the HRC would be there and asked if McGaughy knew of any community leaders who would like to come out and speak about some concerns. McGaughy stated that she would let people know.

Connors asked if anyone would bring food. Lowdon inquired how the Commission could provide food without violating any City rule. She inquired if she could just donate the food to the Bartlett Center for them to serve. Carter stated that that would be fine. Summers inquired if the City could donate water. Carter responded that water would be contributed.

Lowdon stated that a Commission member should have some prepared comments.

There was then general discussion about having an open forum at the Pride events in September. Lowdon mentioned reaching out to the disabled people in St. Joseph. Summers stated that the Commission might be able to have a table at the Special Olympics. Carter stated that the City has the Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Board and that a member of the Commission could attend that board's meetings. Carter stated the duties of the ADA Compliance Board.

Item #5. City Staff Update

None.

Item #6 Public Comment

None.

Item #7. Future Agenda Overview

Supple stated that she had the October meeting set up. Supple continued that Interserv had a fulltime staff person who works with immigrant services. Supple stated that that full-time staff person has three others who will participate a panel on services to immigrants. She stated that it was on October 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Item #8. Adjourn

Summers moved to adjourn. Lowdon seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Ben Williams, Recording Secretary