



**MINUTES**  
**HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, April 18, 2018 – Council Conference Room**

1. **Call to Order** – Present: Joe Allen, David Dove (Chair), Jerome Kahn, Carrie Myer, Kalene Nisly, Natasha Russell-Iverson, and Mike Sullivan. Meryl Dye (Staff Liaison) was also present. Absent: Olivia Martinez and Sue Wray (V. Chair).
2. **Oral Communications by Audience** – Paul Waggoner was a guest in the audience. He has no comments.
3. **Election of Officers** – Members agreed to move elections to the May agenda when more members attend.
4. **Minutes** – Myer made a motion to approve the minutes of March 21, 2018. Allen seconded the motion and motion passed.
5. **Reports**
  - A. Attendance Record - Dye spoke about the attendance record and noted that members whose attendance has been less than 75% are now in attendance.
  - B. Informal Complaint Report - Dye said there were no informal complaints for March. Last week Dye followed up with the gentleman who contacted her in February. He is still putting together his complaint for the State civil rights agency, and will get back to Dye later.
6. **Unfinished Business** –
  - A. Community Conversations Survey - HHRC members reviewed charts and graphs of responses gathered from entry surveys at the Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> Community Conversation. About 92 people turned in the survey, out of an estimated 130 people in attendance. Most attendees learned about the event through the newspaper and social media. About 50.5% of the audience were between 60 and 90 years of age, with 32.6% between 30 and 59 years, and 12.4% from 18-22 years. There were equal percentages of men and women. About 84% have a college education. The respondents are about 70% white, 14.6% Black or African American, and 5.6% Latino or Hispanic. Multiple responses of mixed races were about 6.7%.

Most participants hoped the event will improve race relations, and believed the discussion would be relevant for everyday life. More people believe that prejudice and racism exists in our community, than those who don't believe it exists. Over 30 of the respondents believe they have been targets or otherwise affected by racism, prejudice or discrimination. More than a majority of respondents believe they try to educate themselves about the culture and experience of other racial, religious or socioeconomic groups, and spend time in reflecting on personal biases and how prejudicial messages may have been internalized.

Again, a large number of respondents avoid using degrading terms and stereotyping other people based on group identity. About 73% want to participate in future discussions.

- B. Future Community Conversations – Russell-Iverson suggested giving audiences more educational information on racism by showing a video and having a presenter. Allen said that the attendance and online viewing along with the survey strongly suggest that the public is still interested in this topic and don't want the discussion to stop. He said the controversy over this topic has created the interest. Kahn said we are preaching to the choir and need to find a way to reach people who need to learn about racism and give them the tools to address the problem. He gave the recent situation with Starbucks as an example, and the company's response in providing training to management. Sullivan said we need to talk about institutional racism, and could use a video to introduce the topic. Russell-Iverson agreed we need to reach people in power. She said the World Trust has a video that addresses institutional racism. Myer would like the HHRC to develop an outline on future conversations that still allows people to discuss. Dye said she would work on an outline as well as review some possible videos and come up with a presenter. She suggested working with the Chamber of Commerce to reach business owners.
- C. Sullivan asked if the HHRC is going to address concerns presented by Paul Waggoner at the meeting last month. Dye told Waggoner she appreciated his comments, and gave thought to his concerns. She said that she should have given more attention to the content of the handout, and that she would be more careful to do so in the future. Whether the Commission will continue to partner with other groups is a decision of the HHRC. Dove acknowledged this is a decision of the HHRC, and that he doesn't see a problem in continuing. But we will look closer at information distributed by partners.

7. **New Business** – None.

8. **Communications and Comments** – Dove said he attended the City Council meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to receive a proclamation on Fair Housing Month, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of federal legislation to eliminate discrimination in housing. Sullivan announced the Women's Fair at the fairgrounds on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dye said the Cinco de Mayo celebration will be held on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5 p.m., and will feature music, games, and bounce houses.

9. **Adjournment** – Kahn made a motion to adjourn. Sullivan seconded the motion that passed.

Minutes prepared by Meryl Dye, Staff Liaison.

**Next Meeting: May 16, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. – Council Conference Room**