



MINUTES
HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, July 17, 2019 – Council Conference Room

1. **Call to Order** – Present were Boyd, Barlow Kahn, Nisly, Russell-Iverson, Sullivan, Wray. Absent was Meyer.
2. **Oral Communications by Audience** - Guest Olivia Martinez shared that she is interested in rejoining the commission.
3. **Approval of Minutes** (June 19th and May 15th meetings) - Motion by Russel-Iverson and second by Wray. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Unfinished Business**

Recap of the Community Conversations Simulation/Next Steps –

- Commissioner Kahn stated that it was an interesting process. He felt that it was not quite what he anticipated, but that it went well.
- Commissioners Boyd and Nisly both shared their thoughts that the simulation was interesting and allowed for good conversation.
- HRO mentioned that the impact is very different dependent on the size of the group.
- HRO advised that she had been in contact with a diversity facilitator, Dr. Nita Mosby Tyler, who facilitates diversity workshops across the country. It was suggested that we bring her to Hutchinson, that we have her present to a community group of at least 75-100 interested participants; and begin the process of creating continuous work around diversity and equity issues in the city.
- The group agreed that it would be a great way to get things moving and suggested that we try for a 4-8pm session on a weekday and determine if CEU's could be offered for participants.
- HRO will work on answering those questions and get all the details regarding date, time and cost to have Dr. Mosby come.

5. **New Business**

Emancipation Parade: HRO asked if the group was interested in supporting the event and if so, how many participants could be counted on to be present. The parade is slated for Saturday August 3rd starting at 9am. HRO advised that for us to participate we would need to have some volunteers. The group stated that they would be in touch with HRO to confirm their participation. HRO advised that we could get a banner with our logo on it and that she had already been in talks with Rebecca Keasling regarding getting that done. The cost was mentioned by Commissioner Sullivan. HRO confirmed that there were funds in the budget to cover the cost; and it would be something used more than once.

Guest Jesse Yuma – provided details about the event indicating that it will be a 4-day celebration.

Recruitment updates – HRO provided the names of those applications received for replacing the opening left by Commissioner Ingram's departure. During that conversation Commissioner Wray advised that she would also be resigning from her position at the end of her term in

September. Discussion ensued about the opportunity for the commission to interview candidates. Commissioner Kahn suggested we follow the bylaws which states that “the governing body may request and accept recommendations from the existing members of the Human Relations Commission when vacancy arises”. HRO advised that the Mayor is likely going to vet the candidates to ensure they can meet the expectations of the commission. Advised that if commissioners had concerns regarding the names provided, they were welcome to share that with the HRO.

6. **Communications and Comments**

Commissioner Russel-Iverson talked about the Pride event and the surprisingly high turnout. She indicated that it was well received that the City was represented in the Unity March.

Commissioner Wray mentioned the candidate forum hosted by the NAACP. Commissioners expressed interest in the fact that some of the candidates were unaware of the work of the Human Relations Commission and the appointment of the HRO.

Guest Max Pierce representing the Mid-Kansas Community Action Program shared with the group information about the Housing and Beyond program coming to Hutchinson next month. The group felt it would be wise to allow Mr. Pierce to present the full details of the program in the form of a lunch and learn or other platform hosted by the Commission.

7. **Adjournment** – Motion by Sullivan, second by Boyd, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Datjaeda Moore, Human Relations Officer

Next Meeting: August 21, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. – Council Chambers Conference Room