

YORK CITY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

28 East Market Street
York, PA 17401

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2014

Call to order:

Commissioner Rollins-Fitch calls meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

Roll Call:

In Attendance are Commissioners: Karen Rollins-Fitch, James Sawor, Raquel Lilly, Amy Chamberlin, Stan Sexton, Caroline Williams, Rebecca Moore, Ken Woerthwein, and Mark Rhodes. Excused – Cheril Chronister. Staff- J. Ramirez. Quorum met.

Public Comment:

No public comments. Invited guests- Lisa Edmonds and Antwoine Dorm, Stick-N-Move. It is a non-profit youth organization, 350 enrolled children in the program which offers tutoring, mentoring, addresses obesity and bullying. Also, assist in building their confidence, self esteem and anger management. Nutrition and fitness advice are offered. Membership fees, sponsorships and donations are discussed.

Approval of Minutes:

Motioned to approve minutes for April moved by Commissioner Lilly, seconded by Commissioner Sexton. All in favor, motion carries.

Attorney Update:

Attorney Kathryn Slade introduces herself and gives a brief description of her background. She informs the Commission that she visited the office in mid to late April to review cases that could be recommended to be closed. Atty. Slade encourages the hiring of an Investigator and also informs the board that she has been reviewing the statutes to familiarize herself with them.

Report of Acting Chair:

HRC participated in two community events since the last meeting.

The HRC is encouraged to join the YWCA Racial Justice Committee, which meets the first Friday of the month from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Staff person, Johanna, has completed two day training in “Theories of Discrimination” with the Pennsylvania HRC in April.

Ethics forms are past due, please submit them as soon as possible to the City Clerk, Dianna Thompson-Mitchell.

Commissioner Rollins-Fitch attended the York County Community Foundation annual meeting on Thursday, May 15. Christopher Lineberger, urban strategist, suggested the City has more work to do to make the City more pedestrian driven and accessible. The outgoing chair of the Foundation, Michael Newson, spoke about wanting to begin looking at race in York County and how to enhance the perception of race. Commissioner Rollins-Fitch will reach out to Mr. Newson to discuss a partnership in that movement.

On Wednesday, May 21, Commissioner Rollins-Fitch will be reporting to City Council what the HRC has been working on since December.

Report of Acting Secretary/Treasurer:

Commissioner Lilly put together a Finance Report for the members listing the expenditures since the last meeting. The report is reviewed and discussed.

Personnel Committee Report:

Commissioner Williams informs the members that the Committee has interviewed for the investigator position. There are two applicants that are going to be scheduled for a second interview.

The Committee is looking at revising the Executive Director position and is looking at the name "HRC Office Manager". The duties that are attached to this position will have to be forwarded to Human Resources for approval. Questions regarding the time frame for the approval of the changes and if City Council will also need to approve the changes as well were discussed. The salary for the position was discussed as far as the current funds available and how much will have to be requested for the next budget. Concerns over sufficient funds to cover the new position, HRC Office Manger, the Investigator and current staff were discussed; there is not enough funding to cover all three positions this year.

Commissioner Rollins-Fitch states that because the HRC has the ability to raise funds, we could raise money to support another position, which the Budget and Finance Committee would have to look at.

Commissioner Williams makes the motion to change the title from Executive Director in the Policies and Procedures to Human Relations Commission Office Manager. Sawor seconds. After a discussion, the motion is rescinded. Commissioner Sawor moves to accept the recommendation for the name change and job description from Executive Director to HRC Office Manager to the Policies and Procedures committee from the Personnel Committee. Sexton second. All in favor, motion carries.

Planning and Community Relations Committee Report:

Table at Race against Racism, promo items were handed out. After the race was over, most of the people left quickly.

Participated in the P.A.C. event at Penn Park. Led us to a discussion were the HRC needs to participate in a more adult event, rather than a kid thing.

Our items do not reflect our message, many of the items need updated with who we are and what we stand for.

Looking at four outreach workshops at each end of town, north, south, east and west.

Social gatherings for the HRC Commissioners and family in the near future so we can get to know each other better and foster a relationship between each other.

Commissioner Rhodes attends the Social Justice Committee and was asked to join the Board at the YWCA. He is also working with the Ashbury Church and trying to form a strategic partnership is far as outreach.

The Committee is thinking about getting professional head shots of each of the Commissioners to use when doing events or for the newspaper, if needed, so people know who we are we when we are out in the community.

Policies and Procedures Committee Report:

Commissioner Rhodes reads off the changes made to the Practice and Procedures. The changes to the Policy are available for review at the HRC Office, online and the Martin Library. The 30-day review period begins today.

Commissioner Rhodes asks for direction as far as grants and other money opportunities that may arise. All information and requests should come to the Budget and Finance Committee.

Communications:

Advisory Council meeting on May 21. The agenda packet is reviewed, along with the case docket report and the non- jurisdictional reports. Staff added City and Non-City residents to the intake report.

Commissioner Woerthwein points out a correction for underneath residency totals should be 5 City, 7 Non City.

Commissioner Rollins-Fitch extends a thank you to Commissioners Lilly, Rhodes and Woerthwein for renewing their terms.

A motion to renew the membership renewal for the Southern Poverty Law Center at the rate of \$35 moved by Commissioner Rollins-Fitch. Seconded by Commissioner Chamberlin. Motion carries.

Centro Hispano Jose Hernandez 2014 Spring Community Festival will be held on June 14 from 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Park. A sponsorship request is being offered of \$1,000, \$500, \$250 or a donation, is there any mindset in sponsoring or donation for the event.

Commissioner Woerthwein moves that a \$250 sponsorship for this event. Commission Chamberlin seconds the motion. Sawor abstains. Motion carries.

Commissioner Sexton motions that we sponsor the group, Stick-N-Move. Seconded by Sawor. A discussion unfolds as to the fees associated with the program. Commissioner Sawor amends the motion is to take the opportunity to discover the facility and the program and vote on it next month. Seconded by Commissioner Woerthwein. Discussion on amendment to the Robert's Rule of Order is on the floor. Commissioner Rhodes reads the order and explains the rules. All in favor, no opposed or abstaining. Motion carries, original motion stands until June.

Reminder that June 16 is the last scheduled meeting before summer recess. Commissioners Chamberlin and Lilly will be out of town and will not be in attendance for the June meeting. Both excused for the meeting.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn moved by Commissioner Sexton, seconded by Woerthwein. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.