

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

## *Minutes*

May 15, 2018

### Commission Members Present:

Peter Hwang  
Bianca Chang  
Kui Zhao  
Bob Ford  
Joan Hash  
Hector Garcia  
Sharon Jeon

### Commission Members Absent:

Reverend Turner, Chair  
Shiraz Ahmed  
Scott Markow  
Shivani Aghera

### Staff:

Stephanie Chapple, Recording Secretary  
Dr. Barbara J. Sands, HRC Executive Secretary  
Cynthia Peltzman, HRC Legal Counsel

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Commissioner Joan nominated Commissioner Bianca to Chair the meeting in the absence of Chair Reverend Turner and Vice Chair Shiraz. It was properly moved and seconded. All members voted to approve Joan's nomination. Commissioner Joan added for the record that this is the second meeting in a row where both the Chair and Vice Chair were not in attendance.

## 2. PUBLIC FORUM –

Dr. Kevin Gilbert, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion submitted 6-month report to HRC on his work since becoming Director, his primary responsibilities, targeted goals for his office and staff, involvement in the community, overview of partnerships with numerous organizations/groups, and preparations for upcoming student dialogues. Hard copies of Powerpoint slide presentation were circulated. Dr. Gilbert will email electronic copy to Stephanie and adjust font size. To date, 555 educators completed Cultural Proficiency training. Dr. Sands will work with Dr. Gilbert to schedule training for HRC members. Per Dr. Sands and Dr. Gilbert, unfortunately due to a conflict, Dr. Martirano was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Dr. Gilbert indicated that Dr. Martirano is willing to come and speak to/meet HRC members during a future meeting.

## 3. APPROVE MINUTES – April minutes approved.

## 4. CHAIR'S REPORT – No report.

## 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS - Please review reports prior to the meeting. If you have any questions regarding the reports submitted, please bring your questions to the meeting. (\*\*Reports submitted)

- ❖ Finance and Fair Lending with Housing – Scott/Shiraz – No report.
- ❖ \*\* Legislation – Bob/Kui – Please see Kui's hard copy report submitted. Following oral presentation of Legislation report submitted, per Dr. Sands, unless there are additions to written (hard copy) reports or questions about committee reports, there is no need to verbally read the report during the meeting. Members should read all committee reports prior to the meeting.
- ❖ Education, Public Safety and Student Life Committee – Reverend Turner, Sharon – No report.
- ❖ HRC Awards Committee – Bianca/Hector – Per Bianca, award program was a huge success. Ballroom was set up for 80 seats. Every seat was taken. Guests, award winners, and community leaders complimented members on the success of the program. Bianca thanked Stephanie for all her hard work.
- ❖ Human Trafficking Committee – Peter, Shiraz and Joan – Per Dr. Sands, there will be a county-wide committee meeting tomorrow at 9 a.m. at North Laurel Community Center. Hector will attend and represent HRC and FIRN.
- ❖ \*\*LGBTQ Committee – Bob – Please see Bob's written report. Per Bob, there will be a Sage table taking place on Friday which includes younger and older LGBTQ citizens. Last week was PFLAG's fundraiser, Queens and Cocktails. Bob thanked Dr. Sands who also attended the event, and congratulated her on receiving an award at the NAACP Jazz Brunch.
- ❖ Aging, Disability and Health Care Committee – Bianca – No report
- ❖ HRC Goals Committee – Peter, Bianca, Reverend Turner – 1<sup>st</sup> committee meeting was held. Members decided to maintain similar goals as last year, and also make new goals. Committee will meet with PIO. Per Peter, committee will invite various community groups to upcoming meetings to share information, listen to

concerns, and answer/receive questions from those groups. This strategy will allow members to become more culturally proficient while learning about various communities (Inbound) As a result, members will develop new initiatives in working with new organizations, groups, etc. (Outbound). Dr. Sands also met with citizens and leaders from the Korean community. Dr. Sands requested that Peter assist her in working with this group. OHR is currently working on translating brochures in a number of different languages. Per Kui, this is also Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

- ❖ Ad-Hoc / Nominating Committee – Peter, Joan, Shivani - Committee members will speak with Chair Turner regarding HRC open position. Committee members will consider contacting applicants' from previous pool to see if there those applicants are still interested OR open new search to re-advertise. Decision will be determined in June. Open positions are for HRC Student Position and seat formerly held by Opel T. Jones.

5. **STUDENT REPORT** – Sharon shared that, due to traveling abroad, this would be her last meeting as HRC student Commissioner. Sharon submitted hard copy of her Final Student Report on Cultural Proficiency. Sharon worked with classmates, instructors, and the Cultural Proficiency Office (& John Krownapple), and also took a course on Independent Research, to add to her report. Sharon will forward electronic copy of report to Stephanie.
6. **STAFF REPORT** – Please see hard copy report submitted. Dr. Sands is involved in the Chinese and Korean communities, and working with the Public Information Office (PIO) to get brochures translated, and pictures added to new brochures to represent the vast diversity in Howard County. Dr. Sands is encouraging all members to take the Cultural Proficiency Training.
7. **CLOSED SESSION** - The Commission voted to go into Closed Session at 8:27 p.m. (see attachments) to discuss HRC Case No. 18-03-003 and obtain advice from Legal Counsel. Closed session ended at 8:34 p.m. Open session re-opened at 8:35 p.m.
8. **NEW BUSINESS** – Per Kui, all candidates for the Howard County Council will hold a joint forum at the Howard County Chinese school at HCC on Sun, 5/20. This event is open to the public. Kui will forward more information to Stephanie to share with all members. Per Hector, on 6/6 at 5:30 p.m. there will be a Conservancy – American Success awards event with FIRN. Hector will send invitations to all members. Per Joan, speaker from last week's event at the NLCC (Dr. DeGruy) was great. Bianca also attended the program. Per information received from Chair Turner at a previous meeting, there will be a culminating event with all faith based organizations who participated in the monthly community conversation circles on diversity which will be held at St. John Baptist Church. Flyer will be re-circulated.
9. **ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.