

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

October 26, 2017

Commission Members Present:

Reverend Turner, Chair
Bianca Chang
Joan Hash
Kui Zhao
Bob Ford
Hector Garcia, Jr.

Commission Members Absent:

Shivani Aghera
Peter Hwang
Opel T. Jones, I
Shiraz Ahmed

Staff:

Stephanie Chapple, HRC Recording Secretary
Melissa Goldmeier, HRC Legal Counsel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Quorum was present at 7:22 p.m.

2. PUBLIC FORUM – Sandra Braxton-Riley, Columbia resident

3. HRC CASES UPDATE – LEGAL COUNSEL – Case No 17-07-007 appeal was denied

4. APPROVE MINUTES – No quorum during September meeting. Notes from September meeting were accepted; no changes. July minutes will be tabled to November.

5. CHAIR’S REPORT –

- ❖ Thank you to everyone who worked hard to produce and complete CR-180 report. Joan and Peter joined Chair Turner to present at the Council meeting. Special thanks to Joan and Stephanie who worked together to compile report. Following Council meeting, discussion and items for next steps:
 - HCPSS – Bob and Bianca will follow up in 6 months to evaluate status of Diversity Coordinator position. Ex. of question to consider...“What kind of impact do you want this position to have?”
 - HCPD – More statistics are needed. Chair Turner & members would like to know “what are the procedures when employees don’t follow the rules? What are the procedures if/when complaints are made?” Joan offered to assist Peter with this follow-up work.
 - Library – Per Councilmember Sigaty’s inquiry, she asked that the Commission look at more detailed information re. salary scale and promotion process within the HCPL as it relates to gender. Hector will help Kui with this task. Kui/Hector will contact Stacy Fields, Director of Human Resources first to gain a better understanding of salary scale as it relates to gender, ethnicity. Per Chair Turner, exploring/comparing other surrounding counties’ library workforce may also be helpful in determining what other counties have in place for reaching, interviewing, hiring diverse candidates.
 - Targeted timeframe for follow up CR-180 report will be end of January.
 - Chair Turner added Sheriff’s Dept. – Chair Turner will request strategic plan, check with Sherriff McMahon, and any subsequent data they can provide. Strategic plan was not available during initial meeting.
 - Conversation of possibly creating a sub-committee to promote more open dialogue re. opportunities for under-represented communities (Asian (Korean, Vietnamese, Chines, etc.) and Hispanic) will be discussed with Peter at next meeting.
 - Chair Turner will meet with Dr. Sands re. 2019 budget.
- ❖ Resolution 121-2017
 - Commissioners agreed to gain more information and will follow the legislation. Chair Turner requested legislative committee to review and become familiar with the legislation. Legislative Committee, please inform other members when the public hearing is held, and send an email to all members any other additional information. Members who attend the hearing can share their thoughts during the next meeting, as well as, if HRC should draft a response.
- ❖ Correspondence from Councilman Ball on March 9, 2017 Re. Section 12.208-3E and Title VII
 - Chair Turner asked Hector to chair this sub-committee. Joan will continue working with Hector and share all background information gathered thus far. Hector will contact Opel to inquire if Opel is still interested in serving on this sub-committee. Bob volunteered to join this sub-committee.

- ❖ Co-Sponsorship with OHR/HRC and Mr. Myers to Support Play “Disgraced”
 - Per Executive Secretary’s report, Grant Myers will follow up with HRC Chair and members regarding having production of play held in Spring 2018.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Chair Turner requested electronic copies of all reports to be circulated via email, in order to devote this segment of the meeting for discussion of CR-180 follow-up.

- Finance & Fair Lending with Housing – (*Vacant*) – no report
- Legislation – *Bob/Kui* – Kui will submit report every 2 months.
- Education, Public Safety and Student Life Committee – *Reverend Turner, Opel* – No report.
- HRC Awards Committee – *Bianca, Opel, Hector* – Bianca asked Stephanie to re-circulate the nomination form to all members. Members are encouraged to consider nominating those unsung heroes, citizens, etc. who make a difference in protecting and promoting human rights in this county.
- Human Trafficking Committee – **Peter, Shiraz and Joan** – No report
- LGBTQ Committee – *Opel, Bob* – no report
- Aging, Disability and Health Care Committee – *Bianca* – hard copy report submitted
- HRC Goals Committee – Peter, Bianca, Rev. Turner – No report.
- Nominating Committee – Shiraz, Peter, Joan, Shivani – Names of candidates interviewed to replace Ilene Kessler’s seat, as well as, the open student commissioner position, were forwarded to the County Executive. The public hearing for these appointments was held on 10/16. Council will vote to confirm appointments on 11/6 during legislative session.
- Student Report – N/A

7. STAFF REPORT – See written report submitted. Please email her directly if you have any questions regarding the report. If your schedule permits, HRC members are encouraged to attend “Honoring Howard County’s Black Pioneers” on 11/4. More information/flyer will be forwarded. Flyer will also be sent with information re. Annual Human Rights Potluck Dinner co-sponsored with OHR & Howard County Friends of Latin America (HoCoFOLA) in November.

8. NEW BUSINESS – Attendance – Chair Turner asked Stephanie to prepare an attendance chart for the next meeting. List should include January 2017 through October 2017. Discussion of attendance will be held next month.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Joan thanked all members who attended Harriet Tubman Day.

10. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.