

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

May 16, 2019

Commission Members Present:

Bob Ford
Kui Zhao
Scott Markow
Bianca Chang
Hector Garcia
Joan Hash
Leslie Salgado-Tamayo

Commission Members Absent:

Reverend Turner
Shiraz Ahmed

Staff:

Stephanie Chapple, OHR Staff
Janssen Evelyn, Acting HRC Executive Secretary
Melissa Goldmeier, HRC Legal Counsel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. PUBLIC FORUM – Former Commissioner and recipient of the 2019 Human Rights Award Frank V. Eastham thanked members for being selected this year. Mr. Eastham was unable to attend the award program, as he was out of the country. Frank thanked Stephanie for working closely with James LeMon, Executive Director of Community, Parent and School Outreach, who accepted the award in Frank's absence.

3. APPROVE MINUTES – April 17th minutes approved.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT – Chair Bob thanked the HRC Awards Committee members, OHR Acting Administrator Janssen, Stephanie, and the OHR staff for a successful award program. Due to other events being held the same evening, along with HCPSS students on spring break, Awards Committee members will schedule next year's program on a date that doesn't conflict with other major county programs. Additionally, promotion for this event will be advertised much sooner.

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 – See written report. HUD published a new proposed rule that would prohibit mixed status families from living in public or federally subsidized housing together. Scott has a blurb and will circulate the proposed regulation to all members.
- ❖ Legislation – Bob/Kui – Hard copy report submitted by Kui. Kui highlighted current County Council legislation CB14-2019, Md legislature House Bill 168, House Bill 871 and Md Bill SB300/2019
- ❖ Education, Public Safety and Student Life Committee – Reverend Turner – No report.
- ❖ HRC Awards Committee – Bianca/Hector – Bianca encouraged all members to circulate nomination form, link, etc. to their community groups, faith-based organizations and neighbors.
- ❖ Human Trafficking Committee – Peter, Shiraz and Joan – Per Janssen, an office was created that deals specifically with human trafficking. There was an executive order in which a committee was formed under the prior administration, to identify ways the county & law enforcement can eliminate this growing issue, and to issue a report. This report has not come out yet. The new administration is waiting for the report. In addition to human trafficking, labor trafficking is also a major issue. Commissioner Joan will reach out to Janssen or Stephanie re. upcoming meetings with the OHTP, led by Sidney Ford.
- ❖ LGBTQ Committee – Bob – Please see Bob's written report. Per Bob, FreeState Justice, Maryland's principal civil rights organization, listed the successes from the recently completed 2019 general Assembly, claiming 5 victories in the 2019 legislative session. Howard County's first LGBT Pride event will be held on 6/29, 1a – 5 p.m. at Centennial Park. Please visit www.howardcountypride.org for more information.
- ❖ Aging, Disability and Health Care Committee – Bianca – See Bianca's written report submitted.

- ❖ HRC Goals Committee – Peter, Bianca, Reverend Turner – No report. Commissioners will brain-storm and bring ideas to the July meeting, relating to more community outreach and visibility in the community. Discussion re. social media will be a targeted goal following the county’s webpage revisions.
- ❖ Ad-Hoc / Nominating Committee – Peter, Joan – No report. Per Janssen, there were no new nominations for Boards or Commissions in May due to the budget. There are 2 openings on the HRC. Janssen shared the Commissioners’ sentiments to the CEX’s office that HRC members would like to be of assistance or involved in the selection process as new members are appointed, if possible.
- ❖ Community Outreach Sub-Committee – (formed following CR-180 Study) – Peter, Hector – No report. Continuation of discussion from HRC Goals committee report above. Per Janssen, community outreach involves attending events, meeting leaders of other organizations, getting OHR/HRC’s name in the community, and most importantly, educating residents and those who work in Howard County about their civil rights.

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6. STUDENT REPORT – No report.

7. STAFF REPORT – Janssen submitted OHR staff report. Janssen highlighted outreach numerous outreach programs and training OHR staff is participating in, planning, or co-sponsoring. Some of those events include Courageous Conversations, Human Trafficking Prevention, Race Equity Training, Iftar Dinner at Turkish American Community Center, Event Planning meeting with Chair of Commission for Women, Howard County Association of Realtors’ Fair Housing Training, Weekly Voucher Training with the Department of Housing, Disability Discrimination training, etc.

7. CLOSED SESSION – Members went into closed session 8:03 p.m. Reopened meeting at 8:33 p.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS – Brainstorming ideas for HRC’s renewed outreach goals will be brought to the July meeting from all members. OHR staff person Chaunta Taylor will fulfill the HRC Recording Secretary position currently held by Stephanie Chapple. Stephanie will no longer staff the HRC meetings. She will attend her last meeting in June. Stephanie’s new responsibilities will focus solely on OHR Outreach. Chair Bob will draft invitation letter re. concerns brought to the HRC re. issue of possible discrimination against Indian home buyers. Webpage Goals – Once the webpage is updated, members will have input and make suggestions re. social media page, etc. Chaunta will contact PIO for an overview meeting with HRC members once the webpage is complete. Outreach should be an initiative and focus for all members, discussion in July will include “what are the needs of the numerous communities, how HRC can assist, identify specific objectives, what can be done first.” HRC members will determine dates for training new members and veteran members as it relates to cases, roles and responsibilities, and educating the community about their rights. Scott suggested drafting a mission statement and addressing the top 5 issues facing our communities.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Asian American Pacific Event at Centennial Park on Sun, 5/19, 2 – 6 pm., Howard Co. Association of Community Services had an Asian Pacific American program entitled Human Service Needs of Asian American Communities. Kui will reach out to them & invite them to an upcoming meeting. Bob is selling Krispy Kreme donuts on 5/18 as a fundraiser for the upcoming Pride event, Hawthorne Ctr, 8a-12 noon. Per Leslie, there will be a Vigil Demonstration Campaign “Where are the Children” every 1st and 3rd Fri on Gorman Rd from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Please come out to support. International Children’s day is on Sun, 6/9. Numerous organizations are working on an exhibit at the Washington Mall to promote reuniting children with their parents. Congressman Elijah Cummings gave his support and wrote a statement in support of this.

10. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

