

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes
June 21, 2018

Commission Members Present:

Bianca Chang
Kui Zhao
Bob Ford
Reverend Turner

Commission Members Absent:

Shiraz Ahmed
Scott Markow
Shivani Aghera
Joan Hash
Peter Hwang
Hector Garcia

Staff:

Stephanie Chapple, Recording Secretary
Cynthia Peltzman, HRC Legal Counsel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Quorum not present. Chair Turner stated on the record, HRC does not have sufficient number of members present for quorum. Until such time occurs, meeting is being conducted for information purposes only.

2. PUBLIC FORUM – N/A

3. APPROVE MINUTES – N/A

4. CHAIR’S REPORT –

- ❖ There is a vacancy on Panel 2 due to former Commissioner Opel Jones no longer serving on the Commission. Chair Turner requested that Stephanie contact Scott to fill the vacancy.
- ❖ Chair Turner requested HRC Legal Counsel Cynthia to set-up and schedule training for all members regarding **servicing on a panel**- what the responsibilities are, and how panels are conducted. Cynthia confirmed she will speak with former HRC Legal Counsel Melissa Goldmeier, and will confirm with Stephanie regarding training information, date, etc.
- ❖ Members are needed for the planning meeting for play “Disgraced.” Commissioner Turner and Commissioner Joan attended a meeting with director of play, Grant Myers. A follow-up meeting is needed, however Reverend Turner will be on sabbatical July and August. Commissioner Kui met with Mr. Myers and Mary Campbell on 6/20 at the Office of Human Rights to discuss the play. The follow-up meeting is to discuss the presentation Mr. Myers would like to prepare for the 3 area Superintendents and other HCPSS officials. Commissioner Kui will speak with Joan about the sub-committee being formed, and determine who will chair this sub-committee. Next meeting will be held on 7/18. Location tbd. If any other member would like to join this committee, please discuss during the July meeting.
- ❖ Chair Turner sent a draft letter to all members in response to the immigration situation, and the zero tolerance policy. The draft was prepared prior to the Executive Order being signed. Question – do we want to make a statement about what’s happening in our country as it relates to the immigration zero tolerance, or the Executive Order and the reaction that it’s getting across the country? An alternative option would be to draft a letter to the editor, or a letter to our Congressman and Senators encouraging them to speak out and take a stand. Commissioner Bianca stated, previously in the past with another situation (Sanctuary city), it was decided that, with this body, we do not take a stand, however we can express concerns as a personal opinion. Per Bianca, however with the news today, things are rapidly changing. Per Chair Turner, HRC could share that “as a Commission, we ask that our elected officials be supportive of treating all peoples, citizens and non-citizens, documented and un-documented people in a humane way. If we’re going to take a stand, timing is everything. Per HRC Legal Counsel Cynthia, a proposed action for vote “yah or nay” via email would violate the Open Meetings Act, however, what the Commission could do is, schedule a separate meeting, even a telephonic meeting, with an agenda and phone number where citizens can also participate, and then discuss and vote. Meeting must be advertised in advanced notice. Chair Turner asked members present to please discuss during the July meeting. Chair Turner will re-send draft to all members. If any other members are interested in drafting something regarding this issue, please bring your draft to the July meeting to circulate and discuss.
- ❖ Chair Turner will contact Shiraz to Chair the July meeting.
- ❖ Commissioner Opel T. Jones has stepped down. Chair Turner requests Stephanie to contact Opel to attend the initial part of the July HRC meeting to thank him for his years of service. Commissioners Bob, Bianca, Kui and Chair Turner are suggesting to the Nominating Committee members to re-advertise for the open vacancy for new candidates to apply, instead of using the names of the previous pool. Additionally, Stephanie will forward all

student applications to the nominating committee on 7/2. The closing date for students to apply for the HRC Student position is 6/29.

- ❖ Chair Turner asked if there were any additional questions or concerns that Commissioners had following the meeting with Dr. Kevin Gilbert, HCPSS Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Dr. Martirano, Interim Superintendent of HCPSS was unable to attend the May meeting, however, Dr. Gilbert spoke on his behalf. If there is a future need or concern where Commissioners would like to re-invite Dr. Martirano, members can revisit this topic in the fall.

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 – No report.
- ❖ Education, Public Safety and Student Life Committee – Reverend Turner, Shivani – No report.
- ❖ HRC Awards Committee – Bianca/Hector – No report.
- ❖ Human Trafficking Committee – Peter, Shiraz and Joan – No report.
- ❖ **LGBTQ Committee – Bob – Please see Bob’s written report. In addition to written report, there will be a 1st Howard County PRIDE event on 7/28 in Savage. Bob will share more information as he receives it i.e. flyers, etc.
- ❖ **Aging, Disability and Health Care Committee – Bianca – Written report submitted.
- ❖ HRC Goals Committee – Peter, Bianca, Reverend Turner – Chair Turner is requesting Peter and Bianca to give a mid-term report during the July meeting. Per Bianca, Peter, Bianca and Shivani discussed in April and came up with 3 major goals stated in the last meeting minutes. Bianca will draft email to encourage all members to share information about the Commission to your community and faith-based groups, and forward to Stephanie to circulate to everyone. Additionally, Bianca is asking members to feel free to invite community and ethnic group members/leaders to come to an HRC meeting and share information about their community organizations, their mission/goals, etc. and how HRC can support the groups.
- ❖ Ad-Hoc / Nominating Committee – Peter, Joan, Shivani – No report.

5. STUDENT REPORT – No report.

6. STAFF REPORT – N/A

7. CLOSED SESSION – N/A

8. NEW BUSINESS – Cynthia Peltzman will represent the HRC for Legal Counsel moving forward.

9. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.