

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes
July 19, 2018

Commission Members Absent:

Reverend Turner
Shivani Aghera

Commission Members Present:

Bob Ford
Scott Markow
Joan Hash
Peter Hwang
Hector Garcia
Shiraz Ahmed
Bianca Chang
Kui Zhao

Staff:

Stephanie Chapple, Recording Secretary
Cynthia Peltzman, HRC Legal Counsel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Commissioner Bianca opened the meeting as acting Chair until Vice Chair Shiraz was present.

2. PUBLIC FORUM – Christine Kim, OHR Intern

Chao Wu, Candidate for HC School Board, Board member of Columbia Association & friend of Commissioner Kui.

3. APPROVE MINUTES – May minutes approved. June minutes approved pending amendments to add Cmr. Shivani's name to the Goals Committee report.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT – No report submitted by Chair or Vice Chair.

Discussion – Members voted to advertise for open seat formerly held by Cmr. Opel T. Jones. All approved. Stephanie will contact PIO (Public Information Office) to begin process.

- ❖ Per Bianca, during June meeting, members discussed whether to re-invite HCPSS Superintendent Martirano. Commissioners Kui indicated that HRC rescheduled a previous meeting to a different day to accommodate Dr. Martirano's schedule, and he still was unable to attend. Commissioner Bianca and Bob agreed. Bianca stated that discussion for a future invitation would be tabled.
- ❖ Public Hearing Panels – Scott agreed to fill the open panel slot formerly held by Commissioner Opel. HRC legal Counsel (Cynthia) will forward information/instructions to all members re. *Serving on a panel*, instructions, etc.

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 – Kui submitted hard copy & highlighted CB44-2018, SB0660/HB1280 and SB1218/HB1224 & Md General Assembly SB 0660 (visit website for more information). No enacted bills at the Federal level.
- ❖ Education, Public Safety and Student Life Committee – Reverend Turner, Shivani – No report.
- ❖ HRC Awards Committee – Bianca/Hector – Per Bianca, thanks to Stephanie for re-circulating the link to nominate candidates. Bianca re-introduced how the process moves forward, & reiterated there is no deadline. Throughout the year, members can submit individual or organization nominations to those who are doing a great job related to human rights issues. Once selected, members can present awards during the organization's meeting, etc. as well as, invite the organization to the annual award program in April. Per Hector, FIRN hosted an event at the Conservancy. He will share more information and asked members to consider this location for 2019 award program.
- ❖ Human Trafficking Committee – Peter, Shiraz and Joan – No report.
- ❖ **LGBTQ Committee – Bob – Please see Bob's written report. Per Bob, the County Executive named Andrew Howard as the liaison for the county's LGBTQ community. The 1st Howard County Pride event, held on June 28th in Savage, Md went well. (Bob stated at the June meeting that the Pride event was to be held on July 28th by mistake)
- ❖ **Aging, Disability and Health Care Committee – Bianca – Written report submitted.

- ❖ **HRC Goals Committee – Peter, Bianca, Reverend Turner – See Peter’s draft letter to community organizations. Members voted to approve the letter with amendments to include best date that HRC members will meet with each organization. Invitation correspondence will initiate building a relationship with the various groups that represent various races, religions, and community groups. Meeting with groups allows for open dialogue which should encompass (1) what issues that community faces & (2) how HRC can help. Per Peter, these goals will also overlap with the Community Outreach Committee. Peter will reach out to David Lee to discuss webpage.
- ❖ Ad-Hoc / Nominating Committee – Peter, Joan, Shivani – 21 student applications received. Committee will interview selected candidates. Names will be forwarded to the County Exec’s office for consideration. Deadline to submit applications for position formerly held by Cmr. Opel is Friday, 8/24. All submissions will be forwarded to committee members.
- ❖ Community Outreach Sub-Committee – (formed following CR-180 Study) – Peter, Hector – No report. Cmr. Bianca stated that this committee was also formed (in addition to goals above) to attend community events, volunteer at booths during various community events, & distribute HRC literature.

5. STUDENT REPORT – No report.

6. STAFF REPORT – See Dr. Sands written report.

7. CLOSED SESSION – **See attached.**

8. NEW BUSINESS – Cynthia Peltzman will circulate information to all members regarding instructions on “Serving on a panel.” Please review documents once received, and bring your questions to the September meeting.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS – FIRN will be working with Howard County PRIDE. Per Bob, visit website to check dates for meetings, times and location.

Per all members, former Commissioner Opel will be invited to the beginning of the Sept meeting to thank him for his years of service.

Commissioner Joan will forward information re. Harriett Tubman Day.

9. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.