Meeting occurred via WebEx Teleconferencing

Chair Scott Markow called meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Scott Markow, (Chair), Bianca Chang (Vice Chair), Mabrooka Chaudhry, Lynda Earle, Bob Ford, Peter Hwang, Kui Zhao, Gabriel Terrasa, Joan Hash

Absent: Jonathon Di Pietro (Student Commissioner).

Staff Present: Marla Moore, OHRE Outreach Coordinator

Legal Counsel: Melissa Goldmeier

Public Attendees Present: Kelly Cimino, Keith Merkey and Sahara Ukaegbu

I. PUBLIC FORUM
Keith Merkey, from MD Commission of Civil Rights, and Sahara Ukaegbu, Student Commissioner pending confirmation from County Council. Keith stated that employees are off on the new federal holiday for Juneteenth on June 18, 2021. Sahara greeted the group and stated she is a senior in high school and is very excited to be a part of the Commission.

II. APPROVAL OF APRIL AND MAY MINUTES
Scott asked for further corrections. No one had any corrections to either minutes and both month’s meeting minutes were confirmed without opposition or abstention. Bob moved to approve the April minutes. Mabrooka second. All in favor. Gab moved to approve the May minutes. Bob second. All in favor. April and May minutes are approved.

III. PRESENTATION ABOUT THE HOUSING OPPORTUNITY’S MASTERPLAN
Kelly Cimino, Director of Housing and Community Development, presented “Overview of Available Housing Masterplan: A Strategy for Improving the Availability, Affordability, and Accessibility of Housing in Howard County.” What they learned was that more than 37 million households pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing. About 17.6 million families spend more then 50 percent of their household income for housing. In addition, they found out that we need greater diversity in Howard County. It appears a lot of homes are at one end of the financial spectrum or the other, and very little are in the middle. The middle is what the plan is addressing. A critical note: it is acknowledged that affordability is a challenge as it is expensive to reside in Howard county.
It appears we are short about 20,000 housing units. Lastly, as relates to housing and infrastructure, the adequate public facilities ordinance is placing significant limitations on the amount of housing that can be built because our schools are over capacity. Unfortunately, we are unable to fund new school construction. The plan is very in depth and has over 80 recommendations.

Bianca asked Kelly about transportation. Kelly stated any transportation questions or concerns will have to be considered with public transportation and roads with the Department of Zoning and Planning. Kelly acknowledges the different impacts of transportation within the county and highlights the better efforts of the agencies to work together for the master plan. Scott asked Kelly how developers in Howard County pay less fees then other adjacent counties querying, “is this true?” Kelly stated there was a lot of research done concerning the fees and states that Howard County is getting in sync with other counties. Mabrooka asked Kelly about County Bill 42 with short charges.

III. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
Scott discussed the HRC Commission nominations’ progress. Scott met with the Nominations Committee. They sent the top 3 choices for the open position to the County Executive for consideration. The Nomination Committee discussed the candidate’s qualifications based on their application and their passion for human rights. Scott is still waiting to hear back. Scott discussed improvements to the new HRC website. He met with Marla and the Howard County website developer to discuss the features and limitations. Scott wants the commissioners to funnel their website feedback through him and then he will present it to Marla. Marla stated that in addition to the Website Comment Form, HRC will be receiving an OHRE Media Request Form to expedite the process of requesting fliers, posters, programs, County Executive personal appearances, proclamations and other media for events and promotional use.

Scott closed his update by thanking Kui for securing this meeting’s presenter, Kelly Cimino, and stated that Kui has also lined up a presentation for the July meeting. Scott solicited Mabrooka to assist Jonathan in receiving and incorporating the commissioner’s feedback about the student report.

IV. STUDENT COMMISSIONER REPORT
Jonathan was not present tonight. Scott asked if there were any suggestions or comments from commissioners to send over to Jonathan about his report. Mabrooka raised her hand to volunteer to collect comments/questions from the commissioners to send to Jonathan.

V. WORKGROUPS

a. LA ALIANZA LATINA:
Gab stated he had nothing to report.
b. AAPI
Mabrooka stated that she had nothing to report until July when meeting reconvene.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Nominations:
Peter had nothing more to add to report.

b. Awards:
Lynda met last Tuesday, June 1, 2021, with Bianca, Gab and Marla. Gab updated Lynda that Jean Toomer had passed away. It was posted in the *Columbia Flier*. Yolanda has a contact concerning Jean Toomer. The James E. Henson, Sr. and Jean Toomer Individual Award, the Dr. Murray Simon Student award, and the Collette Roberts Organization Award are the names of the awards. They discussed future tasks. Marla created a flier and announcements that went out on the Ball Bulletin as well as websites, Instagram, and Facebook. It was determined we will continue to reach out to different organizations. The meeting talked about Survey Monkey and where the forms go. It was agreed that the submissions will go to Marla, and Marla will forward it to Lynda. Gab stated the announcements of the awards are starting to circulate. They are anticipating receiving nominations soon. Lynda thanked Marla for all of her help.

c. Outreach:
Mabrooka stated that she hadn’t submitted a report because she didn't personally do much outreach this past month. However, she is working on streamlining the outreach process by organizing contacts, events, and talking points. Mabrooka created a Google Doc HRC Message Board about events that is accessible to all commissioners so they can post events and to consolidate. A weekly reminder will be sent to commissioners about the HRC Outreach Message Board. She’s also working with Marla and Kui on an HRC brochure to post and share that can be used digitally as well as printed. The next event is the Annual National Night Out on August 3, 2021, sponsored by the Police Department and East Columbia Library. Scott asked if old activities would be included. Mabrooka said that she had included the old items and this procedure was moving forward.

d. Legislation:
Scott mentioned President Biden a signed bill to declare Juneteenth a national holiday. State is going to recognize it. In addition, County Council introduced a new bill related to Recreation and Parks concerning prohibition of discrimination on all Human Rights protected categories in the parks or recreation activities.

County bills passed this month:
1) Act to require single service restrooms made available to all, gender neutral.
2) Landlord Tenant Bill allows tenants to terminate leases under certain circumstances.
State bills passed or enacted:
1) Alter the terms “sexual orientation” in context of Hate Crimes.
2) Require the MD Commission of Civil Rights to conduct investigations on hate crimes
3) Employment Discrimination – extended 6 months to 300 Days – as the time period someone can complain about discriminatory acts based on employment discriminatory rights.
4) Have a right to counsel if being evicted from your housing.

e. Hate Crimes:
Mabrooka, Gab, Lynda, and Mia Winkley are liaisons for OHRE. Met on Monday. Decided that they will meet the Mondays before the Commission Meetings.

1) Mabrooka and Mia attended U.S. Attorney’s Office Civil Rights meeting on May 26, 2021, at 5 pm: gave background of civil rights, their office, the type of cases they investigate, and the process of partnering with OHRE. There were several websites that the U.S. Attorney shared during the meeting.

2) HBI incidents in the county. Reported on 4 reports from last meeting:
   b. Destruction of property – Vandalism – the “F” word quoted on the school building.
   f. Vandalism – Quotes “no white guilt” and “white lives matter” painted on street signs.
   g. June 2, 2021 – Numerous racial slurs in graffiti painted inside tunnel.

f. Immigration:
Joan stated Jennifer Jones, Chief of Staff, spoke about policy procedural analysis concerning changing county codes. In her assessment, it’ll take a couple of weeks regarding the analysis. Still waiting for Jennifer’s analysis.

g. Social and Economic Justice:
Kui stated that she, Scott, and Bianca met yesterday and discussed:
   1) Continue to get guest speakers to learn more about what is going on in the county every month – 1 or 2 guest speakers every month.
   2) Initiative brought up by Bianca to reach out to the community and community organizations.
VII. **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Bob mentioned how he was saddened at the death of former Administrator, Rufus Clanzy. Scott thanked Marla in assisting the meeting with the commission. Scott stated Yolanda sent out notice for a case where conciliation had failed and needs a hearing. He stated he will reach out to Yolanda and will select 2 commissioners to hear the case.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**
Scott stated need to make motion to close meeting in order to discuss HRC 21-06-003 in a closed session. Joan moved to close meeting. Bob second motion. All in favor. Lynda made a motion to adjourn public meeting. Mabrooka second. All in favor. Closed meeting at 8:16 pm.