



## WEST DES MOINES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

### Thursday, June 9, 2016

**Commissioners Present:** Justine M. Morton (via phone), Frank Harty, Sanjita Pradhan

**Commissioners Absent:** Bernell Edwards, Ila Plasencia

**Staff Representative:** Althea Holcomb

**Guests:** Emily Cohen, Rachel Cohen

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 4:21 p.m.

#### 1. Roll Call

#### 2. Guest introductions

#### 3. Approval of February 2016 Minutes (April meeting cancelled due to lack of attendance)

- Frank motioned to approve; Sanjita seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as read.

#### 4. Opportunity for Public to Address the Commission

#### 5. Chair Report

- Justine reported that she met with City Manager, Tom Hadden and Deputy City Manager, Jamie Letzring. Tom and Jamie are meeting with chairs who serve on City boards or commissions to learn more about the various boards. They discussed how they can help the WDM Human Rights Commission become more visible including partnering with other City entities to bring more attention to the mission of the WDM Human Rights Commission.
- Justine received the Wells Fargo 2015 Diversity Champion award on June 2nd. Nomination was made by the Latin Connection Team Member Network.

#### 6. Staff Report

- The financial report ending 4/30/2016 was reviewed. Expenses amounting to \$372.85 have been accrued in FY15-16. The new FY begins July 1, 2016.

#### 7. Report on Human Rights Phone Line

- No calls to report.

#### 8. Report from Commissioners on recent activities

- Sanjita asked if we had been contacted regarding sponsoring the 2016 Iowa Mosaic Diversity Conference. Althea reported we had not; Sanjita will ask them to send sponsorship information. Frank moved to sponsor the event at the \$250 level; Justine seconded the motion. The event takes place July 21<sup>st</sup> at Prairie Meadows.

- Frank has attended some presentations on sex trafficking in Iowa. He asked if we could receive a report from the WDM Police Department regarding how they are addressing the issue. Althea will contact them to schedule their annual report for the August meeting.

#### **9. Old Business**

- None to report.

#### **10. New Business**

- Sanjita would like a planning session organized for the Commission to meet to prioritize work, and to decide what issues the Commission should focus on. She mentioned Justine's conversation with the City Manager was a great start. Some dates will be sent using Doodle.

#### **11. Next Meeting Date**

- The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2016.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm.

**Notetaker:** Mindy Hotovec