



WEST DES MOINES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Commissioners Present: Sanjita Pradhan, Dr. Rich Salas, Lonnette Dafney, Heather Schott, Mindy Begenat, Mark Hillenbrand

Commissioners Absent with notice: Bernell Edwards

Staff Representative: Laura Reveles

Council Liaison: Councilwoman Renee Hardman

Guests: Tom Hadden, Christine Gordon, Teva Dawson

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 4:31 p.m.

2. **Roll call**

3. **Approval of January 2019 Minutes**

Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand noted the misspelling of one of the guest's names and it will be edited. Commissioner Lonnette Dafney requested to add the discussion the group had on SharePoint. Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand motioned to approve minutes once edits are complete, Commissioner Mindy Begenat seconded, minutes approved upon edits.

4. **Opportunity for public to address the Commission**

- Christine Gordon, Housing Planner for the City introduced herself to the Commission. West Des Moines is an entitlement city and receives Community Development Block Grant dollars towards community programs. Currently, WDM is participating in a regional housing study along with Des Moines. She asked if anyone has ideas specific to housing/ fair housing, please share them with her so she may include them in the regional study. After the plan is drafted it will go out for public comment. The plan is updated every 5 years. When a draft has been completed, she will bring it to the committee as an agenda item. To find the 2014 plan go to the city's website under housing.

5. **Staff report**

- Staff liaison for the Commission Laura Reveles covered the following topics:
 - Phone Line: No messages
 - SharePoint: a site has been created and an email will go out with the general login and password.
 - Sponsorship: discussed a potential One Iowa- Gala sponsorship and addressed how we should handle donations/sponsorships in the future
 - Legislative Update: discussed how to stay up to date and informed when legislation happens. With how quickly legislation can move during session it was discussed that it may be difficult to stay up to date. Posting information on SharePoint was one option mentioned.

6. **Chair report: Commission Chair Sanjita Pradhan**

- Met with the facilitator, Teva Dawson, along with Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand to discuss the strategy session for today's meeting

7. **Report from Commissioners on recent activities--**

- Commissioner Heather Schott informed the group of a free event on March 27, 2019, at Drake University at 6pm. Speaker Wade Davis will talk about inclusive communities.

- Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand talked about the community discussions that meet monthly during the school year. He also met with the City of West Des Moines' Human Resources Director and EMS Director to discuss providing LGBTQ specific and HIV referrals at the Human Services free clinic that is opening in April.

8. Old business

9. New business

10. Next meeting date March 14, 2019, 4:00 – 5:30pm strategy session

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 4:58pm.

Commissioner Heather Schott moved to adjourn, Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand seconded

Minutes by: Laura Reveles

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