



WEST DES MOINES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 12, 2019

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

Commissioners Absent with notice: Bernell Edwards

Staff Representative: Laura Reveles

Council Liaison: Councilwoman Renee Hardman, absent

Guests: Tom Hadden, Jane Dodge, Christine Gordon

1. Call to order: Meeting called to order at 4:43 p.m.

2. Roll call

3. Approval of August 2019 Minutes

Commissioner Heather Schott motioned to approve, Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand seconded, minutes approved

4. Opportunity for public to address the Commission

- Jane Dodge, HR Director, discussed the opportunity to the commission of switching out the paid holiday of President's Day for Martin Luther King Day for City employees. Some unions will have to wait until their contracts expire for that discussion. The Library Board is the governing board for the library and we will work through the Library Director. We are looking for support from the Human Rights Commission.
 - Discussion took place on if there would be push back to the proposal. Commissioner Dr. Salas said we need to support it with the why to the public, bringing people together, the inclusiveness and celebrating. The West Des Moines school system does include this as a holiday day off of school. Commissioner Dr. Salas said it's a wonderful opportunity to provide a day of service for students, parents and faculty to engage.
 - Commissioner Dr. Salas motioned to approve and support this change and Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand seconded.

5. Christine Gordon, Housing Planner, Analysis to Impediments of Fair Housing

- Summarized the work she has done with the City of Des Moines. In looking at the matrix of actions and goals, she discussed what West Des Moines is focused on and asked the commission to see if any of these items fell in the commission's purview to tackle. She pointed out that the City of Des Moines passed the housing ordinance and West Des Moines is tasked with tackling it as well. Contact Christine if there are any items to work on together.
- Commissioner Dr. Salas suggested meeting with Des Moines to discuss best practices in order to move forward new policies.

6. Staff report

- Staff liaison for the Commission Laura Reveles covered the following topics:
 - Phone Line: No messages

- Discussed the email received and information responded to the person who sent an email complaint. We discussed the process of how to process the complaint
- Budget Update
- GARE Convening next Tuesday, September 17th from 8:30 – 3pm
 - Confirmed attendance by members of the Commission
 - Finalized the agenda and details for the day
 - CORE team will host a debriefing, the following Tuesday
- Iowa Leagues of Human Rights Agencies will host their Annual League meeting on October 17, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in Dubuque, and then plan to stay for a community tour from 2-4 p.m., followed by the Race in the Heartland conference on October 18 and 19! Learn more and register for Race in the Heartland here: <https://raceintheheartland.org/>. Please let me know if you would like to attend.
- The community profile document from the Comprehensive Plan Update is being reviewed and once finished they will share with us.
- The Walking Workshop collected some survey data and comments, and when the final document is complete they will share with the commission.

7. Report from Commissioners on recent activities

- Dolores Huerta Friday September 20th, Commissioner Dr. Salas and Chrysalis foundation is hosting her. There is also a luncheon. 5-7:30pm at Drake University
- Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand, starting the 2019/2020 in October. Planning on meeting at different elementary schools in the community to meet more community members and staff

8. Chair report: Commission Chair Sanjita Pradhan

- Suggested a report from Rochelle Long on the Taste of the Junction

9. Old business

10. New business

11. Next meeting date October 10 , 2019 4:30pm – 6:00pm

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:21pm.

Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand moved to adjourn, Commissioner Heather Schott seconded

Minutes by: Laura Reveles