

WDM Human Right Commission

Thursday, March 9, 2023 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Call to order: at 5:05pm

Roll Call: **Shaimaa** Aly, **Milton** Cole, **Tiffany** Berkenes, **Jill** Crosser **Rudy** Trejo, Councilwoman **Renee** Hardman (ZOOM) City staff: **Audrey** Kennis, **Hannah** Guck & **Aaron** Gumm

Absent: Robert Morgan

Guest: Senator Claire Celsi, Gale WDMHS, Matt Hauge, Niko - Valley High School

Public Address Commission – Senator Clair Celsi spoke to the Commission regarding the two bills passed by legislature.

Approval of February 2023 minutes: Jill motioned; Tiffany seconded. All ayes. Amendment: Jill Crosser was present.

Presenter: Matt Hauge, Director of Communications & Outreach for Polk County Housing Trust – Introduced himself to the Commission & expressed his role. Polk County Housing Trust is an independent, non-profit organization for Polk County. Currently working on annual outreach event: “Affordable Housing Week”. Matt presented a PowerPoint to the Commission.

Budget Update: Audrey shared the budget – no updates or changes. Audrey did present the opportunity for a request for the Iowa Juneteenth Celebration Sponsorship for 2023. Current balance until July 1, 2023, \$11,966.01. Shaimaa suggested, increase the funds to the LGBTQ organizations in light of the recent legislative bills. Iowa Safe Schools have not yet reached out for sponsorships at this time. Tiffany requested the amounts sponsored from 2022 for the Juneteenth and the HRC program for Juneteenth. **Audrey** will send out the sponsorships from FY 2022. Rudy reiterated that we as a Commission need to branch out to other networks & build connections for other opportunities. Refer them to the website.

Old Business:

a. Finalizing & Approving WDSM HRC 2023 Programs, Events, & Initiatives

- a.** Each working group presented last meeting. Commission revisited & chose which items to be adopted. Commission discussed each pillar and adopted the following:

Connect:

Partner w/ Fire Dept. to host ‘service trainings’.... smoke alarms, CPR, etc.

Host Open Houses w/ one city dept./city staff once a quarter to connect with WDM citizens.

Welcome Package or letter with a brochure.

Educate:

Engage w/ Youth

Going to Individuals

Proclamations

Engage:

Due to time, Rudy will email Commission regarding “engage pillar”.

Connect: “Open House” voted by Jill, Tiffany, Shaimaa & Milton

Educate: “Youth” voted by Jill, Tiffany & Milton

Engage: Will be decided via email.

b. Spring Retreat Update

- a. No retreat date worked for the Commission. Audrey and Rudy discussed to leverage 30min of the HRC meeting to go through the programs, initiatives, DEI training etc. Wanting to have portions of the “retreat” over the course of the summer, but part of the monthly meetings. A doodle will be sent closer to the middle of the Summer for planning of a retreat. Possible to meet at 4:30p or go until 7p when meeting?

c. Arch Diocese Letter

- a. Tiffany updated the Commission on the letter. Sending the letter tonight to the Commission. Rudy: suggested to drop it into a google doc in order to make the edits in real time. When do you want us to give feedback back? Friday, March 17 per Tiffany request.

Announcement: Jill Crosser will be absent at the April 11 meeting.

New Business: No report.

Staff Report - No report.

Council Report -

Next Meeting: April 11, 2023

Shaimaa motion to adjourn, Milton seconded.

Adjourn: 6:39 pm