

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES

April 15, 2021 4:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

PRESENT: COMMISSION CHAIR Derrick Thaxton
VICE CHAIR Nikki Garry
COMMISSIONERS Byron Hansbro, Francie Johnson, Richard Zaker,
Joyce Keller and Gina Taylor

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS Marty Watkins and Anay Hunt
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY Sherry Beasley

ALSO PRESENT: ACTING HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER Penny Rogers

I. Call to Order

Chair Thaxton called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Seven out of nine Commissioners were present at the time of roll call. Chair Thaxton declared a quorum does exist to conduct and approve business.

Chair Thaxton called on new Commissioner Taylor to introduce herself.

II. Concerns, Comments or Questions from the Audience

There were none.

III. Approval of the March 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Zaker. Upon roll call, Commissioners Byron Hansbro, Francie Johnson, Joyce Keller, Richard Zaker, Vice Chair Nikki Garry and Chair Derrick Thaxton, voted aye. Commissioner Gina Taylor abstained. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

IV. Monthly Activity Report & Summary of Cases

Acting Human Resources Manager Rogers provided a monthly status report of cases.
(Exhibit A)

V. Unfinished Business

A. Update on link to Commission's Facebook page for Black History Program

Ms. Beasley reported that she spoke to Mr. Smith from the City's Information Technology Department. He stated there is a way that the Black History Program can be on the Commission's Facebook page, and the link should be on the Commission's page no later than Tuesday, April 20.

B. Update on participation in Juneteenth

Chair Thaxton reported he talked to Evelyn Hood from the African-American Genealogical Society. The Commission can carry our Martin Luther King banner and

set up a table to hand out our literature. The Commission would like to purchase 50 t-shirts. The t-shirts will be white with red writing. The front of the t-shirt will have the City of Decatur logo and the top left-hand side will have the words Decatur Human Relations Commission. On the back, it will read Juneteenth, at the top, with the African-American Genealogical Society logo underneath. The cost is \$20 per t-shirt totaling \$1,000. The sizes range from small to 2x from Patten Design. Discussion followed. It was suggested that the Commissioners wear the t-shirts and give the remaining t-shirts away during the event. Chair Thaxton asked the Commissioners to email or text him their t-shirt size. The Juneteenth celebration will be on June 19. Commissioner Hansbro suggested inviting the other Commissions from the City to attend the March. Chair Thaxton stated he would ask Ms. Hood to invite the other City Commissions. Ms. Rogers stated she would give Chair Thaxton the names of the people in charge of the other Commissions. Vice Chair Garry wanted to know what will be on the table and how long each Commissioner should work at the table. Commissioner Hansbro stated that he and Vice Chair Garry will work together to come up with a plan. Discussion followed. The pamphlets have the incorrect meeting time on them. Ms. Beasley will print stickers with the correct time and put them on the pamphlet. Commissioner Garry suggested having the winners from the Black History Program participate in the March and get a t-shirt. Ms. Beasley will get in touch with the students and parents. Discussion followed.

C. Update on Acts of Kindness campaign

Commissioner Zaker reported that Commissioner Keller has pushed this idea forward and he would like for her to speak on this. He said she might have someone who may have had a situation that would have been tailor-made for launching this campaign. Commissioner Keller described the person and the kind of help this person received. Commissioner Zaker stated he thinks this would be a great start but doesn't want to start this and not be able to follow with something else. He would like to have ideas on how to keep it going. Commissioner Hansbro suggested we put something on the Facebook page stating We Support Acts of Kindness. Chair Thaxton asked Commissioner Zaker to write something on the Acts of Kindness campaign and send it to Ms. Beasley to post on the Commission's Facebook page.

D. Recap on Community Day of Peace (Gun Buy Back Program)

Commissioner Hansbro stated he attended the program and it was one the greatest events done by the Decatur Police Department, Buffett Foundation, NAACP, the City and the community leaders. Ms. Rogers stated she spoke to someone from the City's Neighborhood Services division to see if there was a way that the Commission could participate in the future. She said there were other groups that had a table and passing out literature. If they do this program in the future, the Commission could have a table with our literature.

E. Discussion on speaker from Decatur Landlord's Association

Ms. Rogers stated in the last meeting it was suggested by Chair Thaxton to have someone back from the Decatur Landlord's Association speak at one of our meetings. Ms. Rogers sent them an email and it was sent back as undeliverable. Chair Thaxton said he called and hasn't received a call back.

VI. New Business

A. Discussion on revision to by-laws

Ms. Rogers stated she noticed that the by-laws were last revised in 2007. She said there are discrepancies between Chapter 28 of the City Code and the Commission's by-laws. She asked the City's Legal Department which document trumps the other when there are discrepancies and was told Chapter 28 trumps the by-laws. Ms. Rogers would like to table this item until she has an opportunity to discuss further with the Legal Department.

B. Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair to take place in May

Ms. Rogers stated the only place that mentions holding elections in May is in the by-laws. It's not mentioned in Chapter 28. It was decided that if we are going to possibly repeal the by-laws, elections should be tabled.

VII. Other Business

There was none.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Keller.

Upon roll call, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.