

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES

October 21, 2021 4:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

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

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER Francie Johnson

ALSO PRESENT: ACTING HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER Penny Rogers
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Sherry Beasley

I. Call to Order

Acting Commission Chair Garry called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Four out of seven Commissioners were present at the time of roll call. Acting Commission Chair Garry declared a quorum does not exist to conduct and approve business. Chair Thaxton entered the meeting at 4:07 p.m. and Commissioner Taylor entered the meeting at 4:15 p.m. Commissioner Chair Thaxton presided over the meeting upon his arrival and declared a quorum does now exist to conduct and approve business.

II. Appearance of Citizens

There was none.

III. Approval of the September 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Vice Chair Garry to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Zaker. Upon roll call, Commissioners Joyce Keller, Richard Zaker, Byron Hansbro, Gina Taylor, Vice Chair Nikki Garry and Chair Derrick Thaxton, voted aye. 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) Acting Chair Garry asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Zaker asked if the Commission believes there is more discrimination taking place in our community than what is being reported or does the Commission think the complaints we are receiving are a representative sample of what is happening with regards to employment and housing in the city. Discussion followed.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Update on Acts of Kindness campaign

Commissioner Zaker reported the following:

- We are still standing at two acts of kindness submissions. We would like to receive more submissions.
- He will post another article before the end of the month.
- He submitted a letter to the editor in the Herald & Review reminding people to send submissions and he included the Commission's email address.

Commissioner Keller reported the following:

- The City Manager attended a recent Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations (CONO) meeting and acknowledged the AOK program.
- She has mentioned the AOK at CONO, Good Samaritan Inn, Northeast Community Fund and at churches.

B. Update on MLK 2022

Commissioner Hansbro reported the following:

- Still need to meet to tie down what the Commission is wanting for the essays, poems and drawings contest.
- Need to tie down where the Commission is going to go in lieu of having an in person banquet
- We still need to try to get others to join in on a Freedom and Justice weekend
- For the most part it will be virtual

Chair Thaxton and Commissioner Hansbro will meet on October 29 to discuss more details about the MLK event.

C. Update on helping to bring Bryan Stevenson to Decatur

Commissioner Zaker provided a handout about Mr. Stevenson's background and the work among the various organizations to bring him to Decatur. Commissioner Zaker will attend the next committee meeting on October 25.

VI. New Business

- A. There was none.

VII. Other Business

- A. Commissioner Zaker discussed his concerns about the community having separate events to commemorate Juneteenth. He was wondering if the Commission thinks it is important enough to contact the organizing groups to let them know ideally we would

like one event with everyone involved pushing toward the same goal. Discussion followed.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Vice Chair Garry made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Keller. Upon roll call, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.