

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES

January 20, 2022 4:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

PRESENT: ACTING CHAIR Nikki Garry
COMMISSIONERS Richard Zaker, Francie Johnson, Byron Hansbro and Joyce Keller

ABSENT: COMMISSION CHAIR Derrick Thaxton and COMMISSIONER Gina Taylor

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

I. Call to Order

Acting Chair Garry called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Five out of seven Commissioners were present at the time of roll call. Acting Chair Garry declared a quorum does exist to conduct and approve business.

II. Appearance of Citizens

The following citizen provided comments to the Commission: Abeer Motan.

III. Approval of the December 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Zaker to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Keller. Upon roll call, Commissioners Richard Zaker, Joyce Keller, Byron Hansbro and Acting Chair Nikki Garry voted aye. Commissioner Francie Johnson abstained. Acting Chair Garry 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 Black History Month

Mrs. Rogers reported the following:

- The Black History Month program was originally scheduled for Thursday, February 24; however, there is a scheduling conflict with some of the City staff who will be assisting with the program. We would like to reschedule to Wednesday, February 23.
- Commissioner Hansbro is going to check with Dr. Vivian Clarington, Pastor of St. Peters AME Church about being the guest speaker. If she is available, the program will be held on Wednesday, February 23.

Ms. Beasley reported the following:

- She explained to Maria Robertson from the Decatur Public School district that the program will not be held on the original date of February 24. Ms. Robertson suggested sending the information to her without a closing date. This will allow the students to start working on their projects. The information was sent on Monday, January 17.

Acting Chair Garry reported the following:

- It was suggested to have the Multicultural Voices of Praise (MVOP) from Millikin University sing at the program. They do not know if they can have rehearsals because of the rise in Covid-19 cases. They want to be a part of this program; however, due to the uncertainties, they will have to play it by ear.
- The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. March which was scheduled to be held on January 17 was canceled due to the high number of Covid-19 cases in Macon County.

B. Motion to move the Women's Forum to March in conjunction with Women's History Month

Commissioner Hansbro stated this will be a virtual event. The forum will include a moderator and key women in the community. A date has not been set. Commissioner Hansbro will ask Commissioner Taylor to help him contact women to participate on the forum. The theme is "Women Behind the Movement."

Commissioner Zaker asked if we had particular women in mind to participate. The names given were Shelith Hansbro, Doris Turner, Yvonne Hawkins, Judge Lisa Holder White, and maybe someone from Richland Community College. Mrs. Mia Tyus was suggested to be the moderator.

Acting Chair Garry asked for a motion to move the Women's Forum to March in conjunction with Women's History Month. Commissioner Johnson made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Keller. Upon roll call, Commissioners Richard Zaker, Joyce Keller, Byron Hansbro, Francie Johnson and Acting Chair Nikki Garry voted aye. Acting Chair Garry declared the motion carried.

VI. New Business

A. There was none.

VII. Other Business

- Commissioner Zaker gave an update on the Bryan Stevenson's Project. The target date for him to come to Decatur is March 23, 2023.
- Commissioner Zaker stated he recently submitted his fifth Act of Kindness that he witnessed. He will write another Letter to the Editor in the Herald & Review to remind the community about the Acts of Kindness program.
- Commissioner Keller stated she was a recipient of an Act of Kindness last week.
- Commissioner Zaker asked Mrs. Rogers if the Commission has any prospective new Commissioners to fill the two vacancies. Mrs. Rogers replied that someone recently submitted an application to be on the Commission and hopefully she will be appointed in time for the February meeting. Acting Chair Garry stated she asked a couple of Millikin Students about joining the Commission; however, they were not able to commit their time.

- Commissioner Johnson mentioned that she is impressed with how much the Commission has evolved from a few years ago. The other Commissioners expressed their agreement.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Hansbro made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Johnson. Upon roll call, Commissioners Richard Zaker, Joyce Keller, Byron Hansbro, Francie Johnson and Acting Chair Nikki Garry voted aye. Acting Chair Garry declared the meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.