

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES

September 15, 2022, 4:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

PRESENT: COMMISSION CHAIR Nikki Garry
VICE CHAIR Byron Hansbro
COMMISSIONERS Richard Zaker, Vivian Goodman, Joyce Keller

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: DIRECTOR of HUMAN RESOURCES French S. Wilson
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER Penny Rogers
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Sherry Beasley

I. Call to Order

Commission Chair Garry called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Three out of five Commissioners were present at the time of roll call. Commission Chair Garry declared a quorum does not exist to approve business. Commissioner Zaker entered the meeting at 4:05 p.m. Commissioner Goodman entered the meeting at 4:10 p.m. Commission Chair Garry declared a quorum does now exist to conduct and approve business.

II. Appearance of Citizens

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

III. Approval of August 18, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Zaker to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Keller. Upon roll call, Commissioners Vivian Goodman, Richard Zaker, Joyce Keller, Vice Chair Hansbro and Commission Chair Garry voted aye. Commission Chair Garry declared the motion carried.

IV. Monthly Activity Report & Summary of Cases

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

V. Unfinished Business

Commission Chair Garry called for Unfinished Business.

A. 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. activities (January)

- Feedback from Commissioners regarding list of duties (see attached)
 - Commission Chair Garry acknowledged the City and their efforts for all they do behind the scenes.
 - Human Resources Manager Penny Rogers stated she heard back from Commission Chair Garry and Vice Chair Hansbro regarding the list of duties.
 - Commissioner Zaker stated he circled the items he thought he could accomplish. He will share them with Mrs. Rogers after the meeting. He thinks the Commission should consider resizing the MLK, Jr. activities based on the realities of City staff's time, the size of the Commission, and the ability of people to do some of the 38 items listed.
 - Commissioner Goodman agreed with Commissioner Zaker.
 - Commissioner Keller agreed also. She is willing to help anyway she can.

Human Resources Manager Penny Rogers stated she asked the Human Resources Director French Wilson to attend this meeting. She has some ideas on how the Commission could scale the activities back.

- Human Resources Director French Wilson stated the following:
 - Scale the activities back to one day maybe on Monday.
 - The church needs to be contacted
 - The students will be involved in the program
 - She will discuss some things with Mrs. Rogers and bring back a proposal to the Commission
- Human Resources Manager Penny Rogers stated she discussed the following with Mrs. Wilson:
 - Scaling the program down to one day on Monday
 - Still have the March
 - Have a program after the March
 - Some of the items on the list could be eliminated if the activities were scaled back to one day.
- Date
 - Monday, January 16, 2023
- Speaker
 - Commission Chair Garry stated she will talk to Professor Rogers from Millikin University to see if she is available on Monday, January 16, 2023
 - Submit names of local or regional speakers to Mrs. Rogers
- Venue
 - Commissioner Goodman will check with Main Street Church availability
 - Commissioner Keller will check with St. Patrick Church availability
 - Commissioner Zaker suggested the Civic Center Arena
 - Administrative Secretary Sherry Beasley suggested the Civic Center Auditorium.
 - Mrs. Wilson will check on the price for the Civic Center Auditorium.

- Commission Chair Garry suggested if a church is used for the venue give the church a seed offering. If the venue is changed, be mindful of the route to march.
- Other
 - The essay, poem and artwork contest will be held during the program on Monday. Video will not be included this year.

B. Motion to approve theme for 2023 MLK.

Motion was made by Commissioner Keller to approve “Now is the Time to Live the Dream” for the theme for the student essays, seconded by Commissioner Zaker. Upon roll call, Commissioners Vivian Goodman, Richard Zaker, Joyce Keller, Vice Chair Hansbro, and Commission Chair Garry voted aye. Commission Chair Garry declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Zaker will write a paragraph explaining the theme for the students and will send it to the Commissioners in a week for comments.

C. Upcoming recognitions/celebrations

Commission Chair Garry stated this will be tabled for now.

D. Recruitment of new commissioners

Human Resources Manager Penny Rogers stated Jerry Pelz who is the retired director of Northeast Community Fund applied. The City Council will vote at the next council meeting to appoint him as a new commissioner.

VI. New Business

There was none.

VII. Other Business

There was none.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Goodman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Keller. Upon call of the roll, Commissioners Richard Zaker, Joyce Keller, Vivian Goodman, Vice Chair Byron Hansbro, and Commission Chair Garry voted aye. Commission Chair Garry declared the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.