

HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

Board Minutes

August 5, 2019

Members Present: Mr. Paul Bradley, Ms. Pamela Cone, Ms. Yvette Kelly-Fields, Rev. Dr. Sherry Gale, Ms. Wanda Sloan, and Mr. Tom Wahrab

Members Absent: Ms. Cherish Cronmiller, Mr. Brian LaDuca

HRC Staff Present: Ms. Julia Acosta-Grommon, Ms. Erica Fields, Ms. Chrisondra Goodwine, Ms. Monica Harris, Ms. Maya Custer-Smith

ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Roll was called and a motion was made by Mr. Tom Wahrab and seconded by Mr. Paul Bradley to approve the minutes from June 3, 2019. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

CASES

- *In Case #3830H, of Miami Valley Fair Housing, Inc. v. Pinnacle Dayton, Mr. Dennis Tatkovic, Owner, and Melody, Agent, Case No. 3831H, a motion was made by Ms. Cherish Cronmiller and seconded by Mr. Brian DaLuca to accept the recommendation the Board approves the “Probable Cause” finding. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.*
- *A motion was made by Wanda Sloan and seconded by Pamela Cone to name Paul Bradley as the new Board Chair. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.*
- *A motion was made by Yvette Kelly-Fields and seconded by Wanda Sloan to name Cherish Cronmiller Vice-Chair. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.*

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

- Erica Fields provided the Board an update on HRC Staffing:
 - The HRC has moved on two of the staff vacancies. The Minority Business Assistance Center Program Director has been identified as Mr. Senay Semere, and he was extended an offer. He has completed his physical. He will be starting the end of August.
 - We have also identified and extended an offer for the Assistant Director position to Joann Wright Mawasha. She has experience across the country in equity work and recently came to us from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. She has also worked at Wright State at the Bolinga Center and is a psychologist by trade. Her official start date is the 19th.

- The HRC is posting, for three weeks, the Business Technical Assistance Administrator. We anticipate filling the position in late October.
- Maya Smith-Custer introduced a new McIntosh Scholar who will be spending a couple of days at the HRC. The Board each introduced themselves.
- Erica discussed the initial meeting for the Board strategic planning process:
 - Erica, Paul, and Chrisondra met with Brian to talk about the initial planning which is scheduled for August 14th. It is an envisioning session of “who are we”, “what do we want to be”, and “what’s our role?” It’s going to be focused on Board feedback and what do you want to get out of it. The second meeting will be focused on identifying concrete objectives. Brian will lead the sessions. The Board agreed to complete the two sessions before making a final vote on the bylaws.
- Erica gave an update on the Good Sam meeting:
 - The Clergy Community Coalition has working diligently over the year to stop the closure of Good Sam. However, as demolition has begun, the Coalition is working in conjunction with ABLE to conduct a federal civil rights investigation. Additionally, the Coalition is seeking support from the Mayor and the Commissioners and expressed interest in meeting with the Human Relations Council.
 - Nancy Kiel and Rodney Carter of the Coalition met with Pastor Sherry, Cherish, Erica and Chrisondra to understand who were are as an agency, how we work with Commission, and our process for filing complaints. Erica explained that either they could file a complaint or the Board could initiate a complaint. We are not sure, however, if it is within our jurisdiction to file a complaint.
 - The Coalition asked for guidance on filing a complaint. Erica noted that she advised them that while we can provide overall guidance, we are a neutral body. HRC advised them to get guidance from their attorney at ABLE as to whether or not they would like to file an official complaint.
 - Pastor Sherry said the HRC should be at the table when they decide what should go on that site.
 - It was suggested that the Board discuss this at the meeting on 8/14.
 - Paul stated that the Board should identify a way in which it could assist.
 - Yvette Kelly-Fields asked if this was something we should be involved with. Erica stated that if it doesn’t fall legally within our jurisdiction then we would not be able to take the case.
- Erica gave an update on United Against Hate campaign:
 - The HRC worked to create a citywide campaign in response to HSK rally that occurred in May.
 - The Civil Rights team held a follow up meeting a week ago with individuals that expressed an interest in ongoing conversations about how we can support people in the community who want to take a stand against hate and bigotry in our community. Erica noted that there are things happening on a daily basis and we want to make sure we are being diligent about addressing it.

- There was a roomful of people who are interested in developing some initiative and the ask is that the HRC will help facilitate moving forward so if the Board is interested in those conversations, we can make sure to include you in that if you have thoughts and ideas on what that looks like, what we may be doing, where there are gaps, or where we are not providing services in the City as it relates to hate and bigotry.
- Erica noted that this is the time to advocate and put forth recommendations as it relates to programs, practice, and policies that we think may be contributing factor to a culture of hate and inequity.
- Paul stated that as he and Cherish go to the Commission meetings that this is something in which they could advocate.

ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.