HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

Board Minutes

September 7, 2019

Members Present:  Mr. Paul Bradley, Mr. Brian LaDuca, Ms. Yvette Kelly-Fields, Ms. Wanda Sloan, and Mr. Tom Wahlrab

Members Absent:  Ms. Pamela Cone, Ms. Cherish Cronmiller

*(Correction) The minutes from August 5, 2019 states that Ms. Cherish Cronmiller and Mr. Brian LaDuca were absent when they were actually present.

HRC Staff Present:  Ms. Julia Acosta-Grommon, Ms. Erica Fields, Ms. Chrisondra Goodwine, Mr. Jared Grandy, Ms. Monica Harris

ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Roll was called and a motion was made by Mr. Tom Wahlrab and seconded by Ms. Yvette Kelly-Fields to approve the minutes from August 5, 2019 with one correction. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

CASES

- In Case #3833H, Miami Valley Fair Housing, Inc. v. George Maharg, River Corridor, and Maharg Realty, a motion was made by Mr. Brian LaDuca and seconded by Ms. Wanda Sloan to accept the recommendation the Board approves the “Negotiated Settlement Agreement-Case Closed” finding. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Julia advised the Board that there is a Board initiated complaint against a property owner and the Respondent wants to set up a conciliation time to meet with the Board. Julia will set up the appointment.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

- Erica Fields provided the Board an update on equity:
  - The Mayor will be convening a community conversation around equity.
  - Erica has been involved in several community conversations about equity but there are so many different groups doing different things. There was a conversation with Learn to Earn, The Dayton Foundation, and Judge Rice is interested in spearheading conversations so the Mayor sent an email to the different partners and organizations that she understands are working within
the space to figure out how we can work collectively to address racial equity around the City. She wants to make sure everyone is on the same page.

- The Mayor asked that Erica and Jared be the representatives for the HRC and that is in the process of being scheduled now. Erica will keep the Board up to date.

- Tom Wahlrab said he is going to google “equity” and see what other cities have done.

- The HRC already has equity in our programs but are not labeled as such, as our language Access policy, PEP, and inclusion. We need to consolidate all that into a report so the community knows we are doing something and will hold us accountable that we are achieving what we are supposed to in racial equity.

- National League of Cities may be able to provide data and information on what other cities are doing. Erica will follow up with Torey check on it.

- Erica provided information on her Sarajevo trip.

  - She was asked a couple of years ago to participate with the Dayton Mediation Center when they presented to individual leaders from the Polish and Sarajevo government.

  - They are really interested in setting up a mediation center so they wanted to learn from us how the process works, who needs to be at the table, how they need to work with other organizations. Many HRC’s across the country have mediators in-house doing some of that work but we are unable to because of budget concerns. We’ve developed a close relationship with the Mediation Center because they have helped us to fulfill some of the programs we are mandated to do.

  - She is going back with the Dayton Mediation Center to Sarajevo because they are working with some young people on conflict mediation. Because of the war, there is still some tension and issues with race relations. The students are coming to the U.S. this October and the HRC is a part of this as well. Monica Harris, the Welcome Dayton Coordinator, will also take part.

  - Maya Custer-Smith, a part of our Young Ambassadors, has set up several times to meet with the students here to build relationships with them.

- Jared gave an update on the community conversation regarding Gun Violence.

  - On September 5, 2019 we had a community conversation with Chief Biehl, Mayor Nan Whaley, and member of the Community Police Council around the issue of gun violence.

  - This was held for a couple reasons: 1) so the community could be heard, 2) to let the community know that there is a Community Police Council. A body of people who are consistently there to represent them and their concerns. The community
was really honest about their feelings and the impact gun violence has around their communities.

- We have to address the root causes of unhealthy communities, poverty probably being the biggest. We also have to be honest about officer involved shootings any why does that occur as much as it does. We will continue to have conversations because two hours is not long enough to solve problems as big as this.

- Monica Harris gave an update on the Welcome Dayton Fundraiser.

  - We’re planning a series of cooking demonstrations. Chefs of immigrant owned restaurants and do live demonstrations but cook most of the food beforehand.

  - After we confirm the last check we will send invitations. Cost will be $65 to $75 per person. We are asking for sponsorships to help with the cost.

  - It will either be held at PNC Bank or Metro Dayton Library. The library will charge us $175 and PNC will charge $200.

  - Erica gave a background on the ABLE contract. This is one of our signature programs that we need to support with the fundraiser.

ADJOURNMENT

- Brian LaDuca made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Yvette Kelly-Fields. The vote was unanimous. Motion Passed. There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.