

City of Fairmont-Human Rights Commission

**Minutes of:
Regular Meeting
May 25, 2022- 5:30 pm**

The duly called and noticed meeting of the City of Fairmont Human Right's commission was held on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via in person meeting at Life United Methodist Church and ZOOM.

Larry Buckland, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call of Members

Members present:

Dusty Merrill- in person
Cindy Straight-in person
Larry Buckland-in person
Miki DeMary-Andrew- in person
Tiffany Samuel- via zoom
Dan Swiger-in person
Robert Martin-in person

Whereupon, a quorum of commissioners was determined to be present for the purposes of conducting the business of said commission as set forth on the Agenda.

In RE: Approval of Meeting minutes from March 23, 2022: Minutes were sent out for review by the commissioners prior to the meeting. No discussion took place.

Cyndi Straight moved that the minutes be approved.
Miki DeMary-Andrew seconded the motion.

Minutes were approved.

In RE: Educational Committee Report

Proposal for next meeting

- Cyndi Straight- Renee Verbanic wants to remind that bullying forum is for all, not just schools. Would like support from HRC to conduct bullying workshop.
- Larry proposed for the commission to have a June 22nd, 2022 meeting at 5:30 pm. Business part of meeting first and then right into bullying workshop that would be conducted by Renee Verbanic. This meeting would need to be conducted virtually VIA zoom.
- commission to discuss then vote for approval
- 1.5 hour approximately, needed for training portion of the meeting.
- dan swiger- questioned how community would be informed. Larry said that newspaper, city manager, any social media to be publicized. Council of Churches, Marion County FRN. Dusty is ready to start publishing to HRC FB page and can create an event for sharing.
- Dan swiger- mainstreet fairmont will share as well and send to June newsletter.
- need to ensure zoom link is shared on social media event link as well.
- Cyndi Straight motion to conduct this training, Dusty Merrill second motion. All in favor.

In RE: SCHEDULE WORK SESSION

- Need a time to work on goals and work on future ideas.
- we would like to schedule a work session separate from the monthly commission meeting.

- this session is an open forum for any individual to help establish goals for the HRC
- before pandemic, per cyndi straight, Jim Nolan conducted a meeting with a large turnout.
- issues were discussed which could be important for the HRC.
- Dusty asked if the list was still available from the last time
- dan swiger would like to take long list of goals and narrow down to some attainable ones.
- We will ask Jim Nolan if he is available to help facilitate this session.
- Larry Buckland will contact Jim Nolan on 5/26/22 to ask for some potential dates for this Meeting.

In RE: NEED SUPPORT: JUNETEENTH & PRIDE PICNIC

- Support needed for two events coming up. Juneteenth and Pride Picnic
- Juneteenth event: saturday June 18th 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
- Pride picnic: 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm.
- Larry asked for Tiffany Samuels for further information for Juneteenth event.
- Tiffany: Juneteenth event will be larger than before. Black history reenactors, historical items utilized, African American acts and entertainment. Discussion of mental health in African American community. The organizers will also have free food, games, amusement park rides.
- Kathy asked how many vendors currently? Tiffany is unsure, but many have voiced interest.
- 25 dollar donation for vendors.
- dan swiger offered that he can provide a list of artisans and vendors that come to mainstreet events.
- per Tiffany: Collette Smith, first african american NFL coach will be the keynote speaker
- Pride picnic will be on the same day as the Juneteenth celebration at East Marion Park, Pavilion # 2.
- Cyndi has sign up paper for both events for support individuals to sign up. Please invite relatives and friends to help as well.
- multiple people needed for each event and for scattered times. Cyndi is having a banner made so that each table has a banner this year.

In RE: OPEN CITIZEN FORUM

Kathy Reed- June 11th yard sale at Life UMC

- Disability rights of WV next wednesday- June 2 10:00 am to 11:30 pm (Disability action center) public forum for those who have an interest in disabilities. She brought a flier. They want to plan priorities for the upcoming year.
- Council of churches, 7 pm First Baptist in social hall upstairs. last meeting until August Relay for life June 10th at Palatine Park.
- Communities of shalom- 7 pm on June 7th. Most likely virtual
- Last Tuesday, zoom meeting in regards to survey that community of shalom wishes to conduct. Looking for individuals from HRC to be involved in planning survey.

D.D. Meighen- event at Fairmont Regional, tours of hospital on June 6th at 1 pm for individuals interested in supporting medical efforts of our community hospitals. Let D.D. know if interested in attending

- D.D. asked Jim Norton to write Faith Journey for this Saturday in the Times WV. "Scathing editorial" on Buffalo shooting and response alt-right has been making in terms of gun control and racism and replacement theory. Please pick up a copy on Saturday and read the column because it is, in his opinion, the best page in WV on Faith and Religion.
- coordinates prayers for city and county, he has scheduled Rabbi Joe on July 12th City Council meeting. Supper and prayer for him if he comes.
- September 13th, Larry Buckland will conduct the prayer for City Council
- D. D. is now the campus minister for Presbyterian church at WVU
- Would like to develop questionnaires about Critical Race Theory for political candidates. Asking HRC to form questions we might ask political candidates regarding race and the theory.

In RE: ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSION

Dusty merrill-

- August 13th, backpack giveaway at windmill park, life UMC will provide auto support. Holly Forbes, TK Blockstar, Danielle Walker, will be present and perform. 1000 backpack giveaway goal. Donations can be given via amazon list.
- 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm Saturday, August 13, 2022.
- fb page will be launching soon. Please share page, posts, and events, invite "likes".
- will keep it "Friends of HRC" further discussion will be given.

Robert Martin

- none at this time

Dan Swiger

- Hometown Markets from now until September. As a nonprofit and HRC can have a free booth To disseminate information.

Cyndi Straight

- Prevention Solutions with Renee Verbanic, she was able to purchase the items we needed for the two events.

Larry Buckland

- Yardsale June 11th at Life UMC- 8:00 am. Outdoors unless weather issues. Any items except clothing can be donated by Friday, June 10th. Communities of Shalom is having this sale.

Miki DeMary-Andrew-

- Matilda show dates announced. June 17th, 18th, 22, 25 at 7:30 pm and June 19th, June 26th at 2 pm. Tickets will be available soon.

Tiffany Samuels - no further announcements

Special notice:

- recent events with school shootings and community mass shootings are troublesome.
- Larry Buckland read that 252 deaths this year, alone.
- a HRC Commissioner, and clergyperson, thoughts and prayers are nice but not enough. We need to Think of policies and changes to help protect each other.

Thanks for attendance and please pass word around for the public to be involved at 5:30 on June 22nd.

In RE: MOTION TO ADJOURN

- Dan Swiger made the motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Robert Martin second the motion.
- All in favor. Meeting was adjourned.

Approved this the 22nd day of June, 2022.

Larry D. Buckland
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

Secretary