

# CITY OF FAIRMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

## **Minutes of:**

### **Regular Meeting**

**July 22nd, 2020 – 5:30p.m.**

The duly called and noticed meeting of the City of Fairmont Human Rights Commission was held on Wednesday, July 22nd, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Brett White, Commission Chairperson, called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call of members.

### **Roll Call of Members**

#### **Members Present:**

Brett White

Dani DeVito

Marianne Moran

Jim Nolan

Gia Deasy

Cyndi Straight

Larry Buckland

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 6/24/20:** Minutes were sent out for review by the commissioners prior to the meeting. No discussion took place.

Gia Deasy moved that the minutes be approved.

Marianne Moran seconded the motion.

Minutes were approved.

#### **In Re: Report from Committee on Education and Community Forum:**

- Jim Nolan introduced Denis Scott and Tony Michael from WVU about potential training needs/options for the City of Fairmont and potential City Council members
  - Cultural competency is a way to talk about implicit bias
  - Have worked with the City of Huntington to provide cultural competency and sexual harassment training for all City employees
  - The goal is to get all city employees training as well as the city's elected officials
  - Training times are customizable, usually a 2 hour minimum
  - This training could be something that is added to the training for new Council members after they are elected
  - The Training is designed to ease people into the concept.
  - Denis/Tony haven't done this as a virtual training yet, but can potentially create an online video training module.

- Fairmont has about 200 employees. Cost would be at the max, \$5000, but will decrease with multi-day training discounts.
- Denis/Tony will be putting together a proposal to get all City employees trained and will get back to us.

**In Re: Update on City of Fairmont Employee Training Progress:**

- Jim Nolan asked Denis/Tony about the mid-fall timeline
- Biggest obstacle for the training is to figure out where the funds will come from.
  - Brett White knows of some grants through the state.
  - Looking into if it is possible to accept community funding (donations/fundraisers/etc.)
  - Might be able to partner with the Communities of Shalom

**In Re: Open Citizen Forum:**

- Jim Norton
  - Building Bridges of Respect task force is meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm via Zoom. They will be working on transitioning the event to an online event and will be working on coming up with and scheduling workshops/presenters throughout the fall.
- D.D. Meighen
  - Voiced that he is very excited for everything the HRC is doing and working on.
- Renee Verbanic
  - Thanked Larry Buckland and his staff for helping make Building Bridges of Respect happen.

**In Re: Announcements:**

- Brett White
  - Wants to move forward with the positivity campaign.
- Dani DeVito
  - Reminded everyone about the Cooped-up Cabaret event benefiting the United Way that is happening at the end of the week and the following week.
- Gia Deasy
  - The county Board of Education is working with Llyod White at the Marion Co. Health Dept. for a school reentry plan. Everyone is working extremely hard for the best interest of our kids.
- Marianne Moran
  - Offered congratulation to Larry Buckland and his family on the birth of their baby.
  - Offered congratulations to Gia Deasy on announcing her candidacy for City Council.
- Cyndi Straight
  - Congratulated both Larry and Gia as well.
  - Think that we are do a great job.
- Jim Nolan

- Announced that he has been working with the Mon County NAACP and the Morgantown HRC on police reform and thinks that we need to be paying attention to police reform as well, even though we don't have any huge problems here.
- He will be participating in a Facebook live on August 3<sup>rd</sup> about police reform.
- Larry Buckland
  - Announced that he has been attending meetings with clergy, FPD Chief Shine, and members of the Black community and those conversations were heading in the right direction.
- Renee Verbanic asked to speak again to let everyone know that the Communities of Shalom received money for yard stakes and signs for Love Your Neighbor.
  - She also added that the Communities of Shalom are having to move locations and asked if any knew of any spaces available.

**Consideration of Business**

**Pending Business: NONE**

**New Business: NONE**

**Financial Report: NONE**

**Events/Forums: NONE**

**Adjournment**

Cyndi Straight made a motion to adjourn.  
 Motion seconded by Marianne Moran and carried.  
 Meeting adjourned.

Approved this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2020.

  
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 CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

  
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 Secretary