

CITY OF FAIRMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**Minutes of:
Regular Meeting
September 23rd, 2020 – 5:30p.m.**

The duly called and noticed meeting of the City of Fairmont Human Rights Commission was held on Wednesday, September 23rd, 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 8/26/20: Minutes were sent out for review by the commissioners prior to the meeting. No discussion took place.

Larry Buckland moved that the minutes be approved.
Gia Deasy seconded the motion.
Minutes were approved.

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

- Jim Nolan
 - Had education committee meeting earlier in the week.
 - Have formed a great relationship with the Communities of Shalom
 - Discussed as a group the book "How to Be an Anti-Racist"
- Jim Norton
 - Presented the information in attached form.

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

- Jim Norton
 - Our funding is requiring that the training no take place in person until after January 1, 2021
 - Funding is still secure, but training dates will have to be pushed.

- WV Prevention Solutions Grant also paid for 15 copies of "How to Be an Anti-Racist" as well as the accompanying workbooks for City Council that will help to facilitate any discussions

In Re: Succession Planning and Discussion:

- Brett White has spoken with the Mayor and City Manager. They are working with the City Attorney to change the terms for the HRC to staggered. Should hopefully be a quick turn around.
 - The City can't advertise for open commission spots until they have resignation letters in hand. We need to decide who is resigning this evening and let them know that the resignations will be effective on November 6th.
 - Brett has decided that he will step aside.
- Gia Deasy said she will also be stepping down regardless of if she is elected to City Council or not.
- Marianne Moran also feels like she should step down.
 - Marianne made the point that we need to ensure that the replacement process is publicized.
- Brett reminded everyone that there is not a question on the form about diversity.
- Gia mentioned that it is good that the HRC is getting this much attention and recognition
- D.D. Meighan suggested having someone go to the October 13th Council meeting to reiterate the openings and encourage people to apply.
 - Brett said he would attend the meeting.

In Re: Confidentiality/FERPA in School System:

- Gia Deasy gave an update.
 - Schools are doing COVID tracing.
 - There is a reporting tree with Head Nurse/Superintendent/Gia Deasy/Llyod White and that they are being very respectful of tracking who is being tested/diagnosed.
 - County does have a press release ready in cases where schools/entire county would need to be closed.
 - It is not the school system's place to release COVID information.
 - Some other concerns that have received attention were teacher's using virtual platforms. They use Teams.
 - There is no breach of confidentiality when teaching in an online classroom. This info comes from the WV Dept. Of Education legal and there are no FERPA violations.

In Re: Open Citizen Forum:

- Alex Knapp
 - The agenda for last night's City Council meeting brought up the 3 year renewal on police financing. He thinks that is might be a good time to look at what we want

our police dept. to look like. Jim Nolan might be able to help facilitate that discussion.

In Re: Announcements:

- Marianne Moran
 - None
- Dani DeVito
 - Urged people to vote for the DAC/Homestead Farms for the State Farm Neighborhood Assist Grant
 - Suggested the book “The New Jim Crow” for those wanting to better understand race as it relates to our criminal justice system.
- Gia Deasy
 - Thanked the 304 Collective for their City Council Candidate Forums and thanked the Chamber of Commerce for including a question about the HRC in those Forums.
- Jim Nolan
 - None
- Cyndi Straight
 - Reminded everyone about the free COVID testing tomorrow at Palatine Park.
- Larry Buckland
 - Echoed everything that everyone else had already said and offered good thoughts to our friends at the DAC after a vehicle struck their building.
- Brett White
 - Mentioned that he had a citizen seek him out and shared his details with us. We need to come up with a plan for what happens when a citizen has a concern that we can’t directly deal with.
 - Reminded everyone to do their census.

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 Gia Deasy and carried.
Meeting adjourned.

Approved this the 28th day of October, 2020.


CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:


Secretary