

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
JUNE 6, 2019

Chair Denise Smith called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm, welcoming the following guests and members:

Members: Connie Genger, Kody Christensen-Linton, Denise Smith, Pam Purinton and Karla Stanton, staff (quorum not established)

Guests: Mayor Bill Cole, Council Member Penny Ronning, Lisa Harmon (BillingsFirstCongregationalChurch), Mylene Widner (HUB & SCMHC), Nell Eby (BFCC), Anna French (HUB), Sundance A (I cannot read his last name) (HUB).

Public Comment was suggested to wait for the end of the agenda, which was the only change.

Minutes had not been sent so Pam will check into getting those sent out immediately.

Old Business:

a. Strategic Planning Meeting

1. Budget: Kody did not have the information on the nametags; table skirt would cost \$220 with logo (black with logo); canopy would be \$550+. Group decided to bypass use of the canopy. Karla said that she would need an invoice to commit 2019 funds. Kody said he would try to get that by Monday.

2. Brochure: No update; Denise will work on changing the color from green to something else. She will consult with Katie

3. Library Reading List: Connie shared an email from Gavin Woltjer, Library Dir of BPL. The items that he addressed was the inclusivity statement, implementation, advertising, and what's next. Connie explained the history of this project to our guests. Lisa Harmon added that BFCC has a resource library open 3x week.

New Business

a. Mayor Cole and Guests

1. Overview of City Council Expectations: Mayor stated that he was not familiar enough with the history of the commission to give direction or clarity but he shared some items to consider

a. Native American Coalition/Native American Cultural Center: Nell Eby gave the history of working on such a center for 40 years. Suggested that this commission could advocate, support, educate the public. NAC would incorporate social services, behavioral health, arts/socialization, health services, ethnobotany, addiction with a culturally sensitive approach. Chair Denise asked that the Indian community reach out to get a member to apply for the HRC. Council member Ronning encouraged more to run for council, boards and commissions explaining the application process.

b. Mayor Cole suggested that the commission be more culturally diverse, reminding HRC, as all boards and commissions are advisory only. But that we needed to have relevance and a commonality. Areas that he shared his thoughts: education to commission, referral and education to public regarding MMIW, human trafficking; what does the city do regarding city employee complaints and reporting to city council; city's role with vendors and contractors; recruit native officers in the BPD; produce a message of diversity via the diversity of this commission.

c. Report to City Council on July 15, 5:30 pm. Chair Denise hopes to have as many commission members attending. She will draft accomplishments and goals via the SWOT meeting with bullet points and presentation of the brochure.

Upcoming Events

- a. Festival of Cultures, June 23, 10-4: Kody can come at noon.
Mexican Fiesta, July 20, 10-4: Denise and Pam can do morning. Connie can do afternoon
Denise will send out a schedule for all to try to help out
- b. Training Opportunities. Karla will try to schedule LT Tom Keightley with BPD to come possibly in the fall to do diversity training. Kody said that Forward Montana does diversity training as well.

No Open Discussions

Next meeting will be July 11, 12:15-1:15, City Hall. Connie has agreed to take minutes as I will be out of town.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Purinton