

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 2, 2020

MEMBERS: Diane Kersten, Kody Christensen-Linton, Abenayaa Lane, Kalen Brown, Katie Cerda, Karla Stanton (Staff).

Absent: Connie Genger, Kristen Prewitt, Brian Schnitzer, Amy Aguirre

Introduction of new members – Kalen Brown and Abenayaa Lane.

Commissioner Kersten made a motion to approve the November minutes. Commissioner Cerda seconded.

There was not a quorum for the December meeting, so the minutes are notes only. Commissioner Christensen-Linton made a motion to approve, all approved.

Old Business:

Commissioner Genger will take the HRC rack cards to the Library today. Commissioner Cerda will reorder rack cards and post to the shared drive.

Discussion:

Commissioner Christensen-Linton ordered name tags for the new members.

Commissioner Christensen-Linton stated orientation packets and the First Hearing for the recommended code changes will be presented to the City Council on February 24th. The meeting starts at 5:30 pm.

Commissioner Christensen-Linton followed up on the September strategic planning meeting regarding subcommittees, their duties and members for each. The HRC mirrored these subcommittees from Fargo, ND.

Commissioner Christensen-Linton informed all HRC members that complaints will be handled by Karla Stanton and she will forward the complaints to HRC members for their review.

HRC Commissioner Genger requested approval to pursue coordinating a presentation on racism.

New Business:

Commissioner Kersten made a motion to nominate the following:

Kody Christensen-Linton	Chairperson
Connie Genger	Vice-Chairperson
Kristen Prewitt	Secretary

Commissioner Cerda seconded the motion. All approved.

Commissioner Brown received a complaint from Matt Lungren (MRM). He will contact Matt at Montana Rescue Mission regarding the complaint and report back to the HRC. Karla Stanton responded to complaints directly. Commission Cerda will develop a template.

HRC meeting time will remain the same from 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the City Hall conference room.

HRC members are encouraged to present new books to the HRC and they will approve at February's meeting and add to the list.

Upcoming Events:

Training Opportunities – Commissioner Christensen-Linton is still trying to connect with Josiah Hugs from the Indian Health and Wellness Center.

Commissioner Cerda mentioned Trauma Informed Training and Trans 101 Training.

Commissioner Christensen-Linton is inquiring if the HRC should reach out to the Visit Billings Campaign regarding no Native American representatives in the advertising campaign. Commission Kersten suggested that the HRC let it go this time, since the issue was being addressed.

Commissioner Brown suggested the HRC add a Native American subcommittee. All agreed the HRC needs to recruit a Native American member; however, all HRC positions are filled at this time.

Commissioner Kersten suggested the HRC reach out to the City Council and invite them to attend future meetings and community events. Commissioner Christensen-Linton offered to send this information to the City Council.

Commissioner Cerda suggested that if members email new items that they start a new email.

Commissioner Kersten shared the Human Rights Municipal Equality Index, a LGBTQ advocacy organization that scores cities on a number of criteria including whether non-discrimination laws are in place and whether there is representation between city government and LGBTQ residents. Casper, Wyoming scored 11 points and Billings scored 20 points out of a possible 100 points.

The next meeting will be February 6th at 12:15 PM

Meeting Adjourned at 1:13 pm