

August 23, 2016

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF August 23, 2016 – Special Meeting

Meeting called to order 6:05pm

Roll Call

Commissioners Present

Kiran Konam

Rhonda Smith

Suresh Krishna

Gary Hoover

Janet Lancaster

Staff – Nicole Albertson

Commissioners Absent

Odemaris Mancilla-Sibaja

Public Comment

No one is in attendance to comment.

Approval of minutes for July 13, 2016

All commissioners approved minutes as presented as revised by Janet Lancaster who asked her name to be added to the Commissioners present.

Other Business

Municipal Equality Index – Dave Shields

Dave Shields attended to discuss the Municipal Equality Index to explain the rating to the commissioners.

Dave is a member of the NIOT community concerns subcommittee. As they started meeting again last year, they looked at ways they can be better representative of the LGBT community. There is a tool by the Human Rights Campaign called the Municipal Equality Index. Been in existence since 2012 – packet of information was handed out. Any community can complete this and be given a score. It makes sense for this to go through the Human Relations Commission. This could be one more recognition for us as a City. This is reflective of the City as a whole.

A rough assessment, Bloomington would get a score somewhere between 55-60, which is about average for the state. Chicago received a score of 100. Naperville received a score of 58.

Suggest we take one more look at it to make sure we have everything in there that we need and once we are good, we can send it off. We can make this an area of focus for improvement. We would need to reach out to the school systems for example for what they do.

Only one person submits it on behalf of the community. Requires documentation to substantiate survey results. For example, the Employee Handbook and non-discrimination laws.

Should look at reviewing the survey as it is completed now, for submittal as is, as long as we put it on our radar to review for 2017 goals to close the gap.

Motion to accept the concept of participating in the MEI, careful review of the document, and approve for submittal at the next regularly scheduled Human Relations Commission meeting on September 14, 2016. Any questions about the document need to be submitted to Nicole prior to our next meeting.

Roll Call for Vote on the above motion:

Commissioner Konam - approved

Commissioner Smith - approved

Commissioner Krishna - approved

Commissioner Hoover - approved

Commissioner Lancaster - approved

Possibly, we need to look at presenting our score to the City Council and talk to them about how we plan to close the gaps.

MLK Luncheon Update

Town of Normal has invited us to have a joint HRC meeting on September 7th to discuss the MLK luncheon plans. Would like to invite them to join us at our next regularly scheduled meeting on September 14th so we can host. Back up optional date in case we cannot do September 14th – any time before Sept. 22nd and not on a Thursday or Tuesdays.

Date and location are secured for luncheon. Saturday January 14th at ISU.

Kiran – presented a list of potential speakers.

Gary – Willie Brown would be a good possibility if we are going with a local speaker.

Suresh – have not had much luck contacting Ghandi's grandson. Who was the speaker in 2011?

Janet - Panel for the Aids quilt – is that something the City would want to look at sponsoring? Jan will send e-mail with more detail to Nicole.

Suresh - McLean County diversity project – City used to provide donation for the organization, high school scholars 25 kids to Auschwitz in June 2017. Solely based upon community donations – would the City support this? City used to contribute. Suresh will forward information to Nicole via e-mail.

Future agenda items

Next meeting will be September 14, 2016.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 6:56pm.