

Clarksville Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2014

Montgomery County Public Library

- I. **Call to order:** by Chairperson, Candy Johnson, at 6:27 pm. Members present: Candy Johnson, Jeff Burkhart, Michael Dale, Rebecca Hines, María Jiménez, JoAnn Latz, Kenneth Roberts. Members absent: Mercedes Acuña, Mohsun Uddin Ghias, Feleesha Johnson, Johnny Jones.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** of October 9th meeting. Approved as submitted with no corrections or additions. Moved by Michael Dale, seconded by Jeff Burkhart. Motioned carried.
- III. **Old Business – Committee Reports**
 1. Research and Evaluation—Ken Roberts and JoAnn Latz met to discuss development of a multicultural group resource guide, to be placed on the HRC website. All groups would be included, and links would be available to all city processes, activities, events, etc. to facilitate interaction and access among the various organizations and groups. The Chamber of Commerce list of organizations will be the beginning point for the compilation of a comprehensive list of all existing organizations. JoAnn contacted Chattanooga about meeting with them to learn what they do to in this area. JoAnn is working out the details of a possible visit to take place on either January 30th or February 5th, 2015.
 2. Marketing and PR—Michael reported that currently, there is no Facebook page. There is a concern about comments that can be made and how they will be dealt with. Anything posted is done through the City Facebook page. One possibility is to send HRC items to Jennifer Ralls to post for HRC, then, she will link them to the HRC webpage. The City wants to be the administrator of anything the HRC submits.
 3. Community Education and Outreach—possible dates for two training events to be provided by HRC were: February 19th and 24th, for Doing Business with Local Government; and, the week of April 16th—24th, to offer training on communication for City employees.
- IV. **New Business**
 1. The HRC By-Laws regarding member attendance at HRC meeting was discussed. It was decided by consensus that the attendance policy as is stated in the By-Laws remain as currently written and be adhered to faithfully. It was reported that HRC member Mercedes Acuña has resigned from HRC. It was also reported that Johnny Jones has relocated and has also resigned from the HRC. Thus, two vacant positions have resulted.
 2. Chairperson Johnson presented information about two individuals for potential members of the HRC to replace the two resigning members. The individuals are: Jason Hodges and Alexander Howard. After review of resumes, and there being no further recommendations, JoAnn Latz moved, and Jeff Burkhart seconded that the two candidates be presented to the City Council at its next meeting, for approval for membership on the HRC. Motion carried.

3. The suggestion was made and discussion ensued regarding the need to hold a “Race Relations in Clarksville” forum, in view of the tense race-related incidents that have occurred in other parts of the country. Members felt that it is within the purview of the HRC to make recommendations to the City Council about proactive strategies to avert any volatile situation in our City. Chairperson Johnson asked the members to e-mail her their views and suggestions on the subject, which the members agreed to do.
 4. Briefly shared about Chairman Johnson speaking to Leadership Clarksville Study group with regards to diversity and inviting them to be a part of putting together our action plan.
 5. City 5-Year diversity Action Planning discussion was postponed until next meeting.
- V. Chairperson Johnson announced that there would probably be an HRC called meeting in January to continue discussions
- VI. Meeting adjourned at 7: 55 pm.