

Advisory Commission on Human Relations and Disability Issues

Minutes

June 26, 2017, 5:30 PM

UG HR Meeting Room

Attendees: Jessie Alvarez-Chair, Cassandra Long-Vice Chair, Wendy Baker, Kim Dominic-Recording Secretary, Don Jolley, Kendall McReynolds, Monica Shonkwiler, John Coolidge, Thomas Alonzo, Karen Greenwood, Phyllis Wallace – Human Services Staff Liaison

Absent: James Echols, Winfred Manning, Valorie Wells-Fenton

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm by Chairperson Jesse Alvarez, as a specially called meeting of the Advisory Commission on Human Relations & Disability Issues. Attendees signed in.

1. Bylaws Review

- a. Suggestions from previous meeting: P.1 ¶2: Term Limit for Chairperson – Modify to read: The term of the chairperson shall not exceed two years and the Chair may be reelected only once.
- b. It was discussed that this may be covered under the the first paragraph if Chair is added there.
- c. **Motion by Kendall McReynolds to add: “Any officer wishing to resign their position must give a least thirty (30) days written notice.” Seconded by John Coolidge. Motion passed.**
- d. **Motion to replace “printed” with “provided to staff liaison within one week of meeting” made by Karen Greenwood. Seconded by Cassandra Long. Motion passed.**
- e. After some discussion, conversation about bylaws was tabled until such time as the City Attorney can be present.
- f. **Phyllis Wallace said she would do her best to get a representative of the City Attorney’s office at our next meeting.**

2. Discussion of Brainstorming and Mission/Purpose

- a. Sheet from previous brainstorming session was reviewed. How is racism changed? Education
- b. What if we had task forces for different interests: disability issues, education, social justice advocacy? Come up with list and choose priorities.
- c. Find the biggest problems first. Who decides which the biggest problem is?
- d. Wendy offered some information she found from another community’s human relations division.
- e. What is role of UG Human Services Department? Phyllis Wallace indicated that they have three areas of responsibility: Human Relations, Disability, and Dispute Resolution. She indicated that they really don’t have staff for Human Relations, so we serve in that role.
- f. Cassandra Long suggested taking the bulleted purpose statement and breaking each of the items into pieces.
- g. Jessie Alvarez suggested that before we address needs, we need to know needs, and recommended that a survey be developed
 - i. **Motion: Kendall McReynolds moved that our first task be to solicit information from the community. John Coolidge seconded. Motion passed.**
 - ii. How do we go about doing this?
 1. Develop survey form – **Kendall McReynolds volunteered to create form**
 - a. Jessie Alvarez would like to have the form have something that can be converted into end of year metrics. - Spreadsheet
 - b. Concerns raised about distrust of the UG general population.
 - c. Keep things positive so that people can respond to things that meet their needs: seminars about things of interest, healthcare,
 - d. Provide resources and information to serve the community.
 - e. Educate community AND request information within the survey.

2. Create newsletter article about the commission – **Karen Greenwood agreed to prepare an article.**
 - a. Submit by Monday for Wednesday publication in UG email newsletter
 - b. Livable Neighborhoods newsletter
3. Social media platforms – Facebook, Nextdoor.com – **Monika Shonkwiler agreed to coordinate with Maritza Fernandez of Human Services for Facebook interface.**
 - a. “Yeah I’m from the Dotte” group
 - b. Maritza can put out a FB blast
4. Neighborhood meetings – **Wendy Baker agreed to get list of neighborhood meetings**
5. Invite speakers for different areas of interest –
 - a. need to identify areas of interest first (fair housing, rental inspection, our interest would be issues of discrimination)
 - b. Perhaps speakers can come in to give us ideas.
 - c. Each of us can identify individuals, groups to speak.
6. **In preparation for next meeting, all members are asked to take a look at the purpose in the ordinance and break it down into what you think it says and how we can address it.**

Meeting concluded at 6:50 pm.

Next Meeting: July 10 – 5:30-7:00 PM