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 Jessie 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