

# **Commission on Human Relations & Disability Issues**

## **Meeting Minutes**

January 7, 2019

5:30pm

### Members Present:

Jim Echols, Jessie Alvarez, Tom Alonzo, Cindy Grable, Don Jolley, Kendall McReynolds, Karen Greenwood,  
Valorie Wells Fenton

### Members Absent:

Kim Dominic (business travel) , Winifred Manning (post-op recovery)

Others Present: Maritza Fernandez, Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator Officer William Barajas, Jr

- I. Call to Order 5:28 PM
- II. Approval of minutes from October meeting-Karen Greenwood motioned for approval; Jim Echols seconded. Minutes approved.
- III. Presentations
  - A. Introduction of new attorney (if present)-James Bain-Mr Bains was present for consultation during sub-committee meeting regarding ordinance amendment proposals prior to regular meeting. He asked to be excused after sub committee meeting ended. Agreed.
  - B. Guest Speaker - Officer William Barajas., Jr. Introduction by Jessie Alvarez. Officer Barajas discussed how recruiting practices have changed to reflect the times, i.e., starting earlier with middle school to build rapport for potential public safety officers: Pizza with a Cop, Read with a Cop, P.A.L., etc. Also working with interns/students to cooperate better with school/work scheduling. Officer Barajas pointed out, “Nationwide,... people don’t want to apply to be a cop,” referring to media coverage of police/community mistrust, pointing to east and west coasts particularly. Lengthy discussions followed with specifics regarding the extensive elimination process using many facets from writing skills and firearm accuracy to background checks and personality evaluations. Assistant County Administrator, Gordon Criswell, offered details about dedicated public safety department human resources staff to coordinate all aspects of public safety personnel including annual Crisis Intervention Training for all personnel from Chief to Patrol. Mr Criswell suggested ACHRDI contacts Jennifer Phillips, Public Safety HR, for data and recruitment procedures. Mr Criswell also strongly recommended ACHRDI “pass the word about census 2020 completion”.
  - C. Event reports-NA
- IV. Old Business
  - A. Special Committee on Law Enforcement – Jim Echols said he will contact Jennifer Phillips, Public Safety HR, to “set up a meeting with Law Enforcement Sub Committee before we make some suggestions to the Chief”.

Don Jolley pointed out that the KCKPD Law Enforcement Advisory Board meeting is this coming Wednesday at 4:00 pm with Chief Ziegler in his office. Don pointed out that the meeting is open to the public and a few members mentioned they might try to attend.

B. Review of Ordinance and recommendations – Karen Greenwood, Don Jolley, Cindy Crable-Karen Greenwood reported on the subcommittee meeting held January 7, 2019, at 4:30pm-5:30 pm. Basically there were five ordinance revisions under consideration: **Sect 18:22** regarding residency requirements for Commission members-no consensus in sub committee; **Sect 18:23**-remove parenthesis from the words *including people with disabilities-unanimous* approval of sub committee, **Sect 18:24-change** language to reflect Commission will create and fill Officers positions including *Chairperson*; **Sect 18:25-amended** quorum required for business to *simple majority*; and all references to human relations shall be changed to **human resources**. Tom Alonzo motioned that ACHRDI accept the four proposed modifications which were unanimously approved by the sub-committee. Karen Greenwood seconded. All agreed by voice vote. Tom Alonzo motioned that ACHRDI accepts residency requirements for all members as stated in ordinance 18:22. Kendall McReynolds seconded. Two opposed: Cindy Grable and Don Jolley. Motion passed with majority 6:2. Karen Greenwood reported the process now will be for UG attorney, James Bain, to present proposals to Standing Committee. Karen Greenwood suggested we revise by-laws after ordinance revisions are approved. All agreed.

C. Conviction Integrity Unit – Kendall McReynolds reported “I am no longer involved with that.”

D. Sponsor documentary – Jessie Alvarez reported that the rental/showing of the documentary, “Journey To Normal”, about the efforts to assist female veterans returning from active duty with their unique issues, will be funded by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, per Phyllis Wallace of HR. There was discussion about the \$300. rental fee. Jessie Alvarez suggested a donation basket at time of showing. Karen Greenwood suggested getting co-sponsors from the community for this March, Womens’ History Month, community interest event. Cindy Grable offered that she can assure some form of sponsorship from Fort Leavenworth Women Veterans Affairs organization through her influence. Jessie Alvarez requested ACHRDI advertise event on ACHRDI FaceBook page. Valorie Wells Fenton mentioned notifying local ROTC chapters in both KCK and Ft. Leavenworth areas. Many excited recommendations followed including: showing in Ag Hall of Fame auditorium, KCCC auditorium, etc. Many members offered to think about ways to make this a larger, more efficacious event for both ACHRDI and women VA.

E. Municipal ID Initiative – Karen Greenwood-reported that when ACHRDI is “ready to invite Alex back, he’ll come to discuss municipal ID.” Karen Greenwood will make that contact at the time.

F. MEI & NDO update – Tom Alonzo-reported that he and UG Attorney, James Bain, will be meeting to discuss ways to increase the MEI and NDO scores to advance recruitment of new personnel to UG/KCK.

G. Dotte Mobile Market – Tom Alonzo-reported that they have “pushed out the market in 15 areas, east of I-635, including 1 in Turner.” Cindy Grable asked if government shutdown will affect Dotte Market? And Tom Alonzo replied, “Yes!”

H. Election of Officers-after brief discussion and in deference to full schedule this month, Valorie Wells Fenton made a motion “Due to no quorums in both November and December and pending approval of the ordinance revisions, officers will remain in place, to be reviewed at every meeting until such time as nominations/voting for new officers can be completed.” Kendall McReynolds seconded. All approved.

V. New business

A. Poster – Tom Alonzo-reported that he is conferring with Jenny Alvarez for artistic review.

1. Resource Allocation Equity and Disability Statistics – Tom Alonzo, Valorie Wells-reported by Valorie Wells Fenton that as the data revealed a surprisingly equitable and satisfactory allocation of resources to aging, disabled and poor, on an imaginary boundary of east/west of I-635, there is no need for further action by this committee at this time.

B. Review of Accomplishments in 2018 – Jessie Alvarez-tabled until February due to overtime

C. Strategic Planning for 2019 & Goal Setting – Jessie Alvarez-tabled until February due to overtime

D. Upcoming events

1. January – M.L. King Banquet-probably will be cancelled due to government partial shutdown. Jessie Alvarez offered that ACHRDI will be well represented at Rosedale Development Association event, RISE, on January 15, by Jessie Alvarez and Valorie Wells Fenton. Jessie Alvarez invited all committee members to volunteer as readers of selected materials to elementary school children.

2. February – Black History Month-Karen Greenwood expressed interest in the progress of the Quindaro Preservation project. Jim Echols offered to get update through his contacts with that project and report back to ACHRDI.

3. March – Women’s History Month-“Journey To Normal” movie co-sponsorship, with Jessie Alvarez as project leader with offers of help from Valorie Wells Fenton, Tom Alonzo, Kendall McReynolds, Cindy Grable.

4. April – Autism Month-Cindy Grable offered to make connection with KCK Special Olympics with possible tie-in to KCKPD.

5. Other New Business Tom Alonzo suggested he can contact Alicia Ellingsworth to discuss community gardens; consider a film with Q&A in June to honor 50th anniversary of Stonewall Riots. Also mentioned ACHRDI supporting diabetes awareness month.

VI. Adjournment-Tom Alonzo motioned for adjournment and Jessie Alvarez seconded. All agreed. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

**NEXT MEETING: February 4, 2018 - 5:30 PM**