

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

October 5, 2020

5:30pm

**Members Present:** Jim Echols, Marge Gasnick, Julie Xiong, Karen Greenwood, Tom Alonzo, Christina VanCleave

**Members Absent:** Don Jolley, Abbie Dillard

Others Present: Phyllis Wallace, Maritza Fernandez, James Bain, Dustin Hare

### **I. Vice Chairperson called to order – 5:37pm**

### **II. Old Business**

### **III. Approval of meeting minutes from September meeting**

- A. Marge made first motion and Julie motioned second for passing meeting minutes
- B. No comments were made after revision of bylaws
- C. Tom's signature will conclude final step of bylaw establishment

### **IV. New Business**

- A. Committee needs to include all aspects of human relations within topics being discussed such as healthcare.
- B. When topics are being brought to the table, if group feels it is an important issue that will greatly impact the community, take a stance and write a letter of recommendation as part of the commission.
- C. The month of October and November is where commission presents priorities to legislator
- D. Setting a procedure – what should we do when we have a recommendation for resolution?
- E. ACHRDI would be interested in speaking at standing committees
- F. Karen brought up information regarding Juniper Gardens. Juniper Garden tenants were not being informed on when their moving date was upon receiving their evacuation letters. Juniper Gardens consists of 265 units and has been sold to a private company. The tenants will be placed in new apartments in Kansas City, KS by 90<sup>th</sup> street. One concern is that some of these families will be moved away from the community they grew up in. However, the main concern is that tenants were being evicted due to lease violations including but not limited to not paying rent while in the middle of a pandemic.
- G. Dustin Hare commented that current Juniper Garden residents would have 18-24 months to move to their new location. It was noted that this was not due to not paying rent. Tenants may be evicted and have the sheriff come into their home when breaking lease agreements or committing lease violations. Lease violations include of criminal activity, weapons, drugs etc.

H. James Echols noted that our chairperson was not sought after for the task force on Community and Police Relations and would like to get clarification from the commissioner's office.

I. It is now 7:09pm and Karen motioned to adjourn meeting. Tom followed with a second motion to end meeting.

**Next meeting: November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**