

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

November 6, 2017

5:30pm – 7:00pm

Members present: Jessie Alvarez-Chair, Cassandra Long- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Jim Echols-2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Kim Dominic-Secretary, Tom Alonzo, Kendall McReynolds, Wendy Baker, Don Jolley, Janice Santiago, Winfred Manning

Members Absent: Karen Greenwood-Excused, Valorie Wells Fenton-Excused,

Other: Phyllis Wallace-Staff Liaison, Maritza Fernandez-Staff Liaison, Ryan Haga-Legal Department

I. Call to order by Chair Jessie Alvarez at 5:31 PM

II. Approval of minutes from October meeting: Motion for approval by Don Jolley; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wendy Baker. Discussion or corrections: None; Approved unanimously

III. Introduction of New Member – Janice Santiago – Translator for KCK School District

IV. Presentations & Reports

A. Recent events

1. Implicit Bias Training – October 5, 2017: Attended by Kim Dominic, Cassandra Long, Tom Alonzo, Don Jolley, Jim Echols – Cassandra reported on how often we forget we have biases and this was a good reminder to acknowledge others as human and recognize your own biases so you can be better at relating to others. Jim felt the presenter did a very good job. Applicable to our commission in recognizing our own biases so that they can be brought to the surface so that we can address them. Don stated that he felt the presenter only spoke about how she had been discriminated against. Jim spoke how bias is an attitude and discrimination is an action. Tom said that what he got out of it was that any discussion about discrimination or bias makes everyone uncomfortable, but we need to continue to have discussions. Don said that a couple of examples that she used were one about Oprah trying to buy a purse, and how the presenter was in a grocery store and every time she walked by a young boy would grab his mother's purse. Kendall pointed out that people have to be willing to do something about their own bias if it's going to make a difference. Phyllis will continue to find us other opportunities for training of this nature. We need to continue talking about it.

2. Commission Get-Together – October 6, 2017: Jessie felt that the get-together was successful and that it afforded the opportunity for us to get to know each other a little better.

3. WyOneDotte Celebration – October 14, 2017: Kendall said, "We came, we saw, we conquered." The Mayor was pleased that we were represented. We gave away a lot of freebies. Tom said the organization of the event was very good, especially considering the rain. The turnout was very good. Don was disappointed that the Commissioner turnout appeared to be very low. He only saw two or three UG Commissioners attended.

4. Fair Housing Training – October 16, 2017: Phyllis gave us packets of the training materials and Phyllis is going to try to get us training. The Human Relations Summit is coming up November 14. Good opportunity to find out how similar commissions are run elsewhere. This will be another opportunity to interact with others doing the same thing we do. Jessie will attend.

5. KCKPD & KU Partnership on Youth Violence – October 26, 2017: Kendall McReynolds talked about the KCK Youth Violence Prevention Project. Meeting held at South Patrol HQ. Police didn't really know what it was all about, but were impressed with the presentation. Kendall thought

the group had a good plan. 100-200 youth from all sectors – at-risk and not at-risk. Another meeting on Thursday, 2:30 PM. Phyllis, Maritza, and Tom will try to attend. Kendall reported that they had clear goals. They need volunteers but volunteers must be committed.

6. Meet & Greet – November 1, 2017: Tom said that his Commissioner showed up. Commissioner Bynum also attended. Chris Haulmark was there with his interpreter. The time seemed to go by really fast. Janice asked about the purpose of the Meet & Greet. Jessie explained that the previous commission was disbanded some time ago and we just want to get the word out that we have been reformed. The Meet & Greets are to get us out in the public. Janice asked how it was promoted. Cassandra said we tried to spread the word through social media and word of mouth. Janice felt our page needed more clarity. So do we. We're working on it. Don suggested that maybe the Meet & Greet may be too informal. It wasn't clear who we were. We need some way of indicating who we are. Phyllis is going to get us badges and a Commission tablecloth to identify us at functions. We should also have a greeter at the door. We should probably have an easel at the door. We will be at South library next, and should also include main library and Bonner Springs library. At our meet and greet we failed to advertise that we would try to accommodate special needs if they were required.

#### V. Old Business

A. Discussion of ACHRDI purpose: Jessie: If someone brings an individual complaint. We are not to judge or respond, but pass it along to Phyllis. Phyllis said we should take notes if something is brought to our attention, but if there is a systematic issue within our community, we should take note so that we can bring it to the attention to the UG Commission. The purpose of our commission is identified in our Ordinance, Sec. 18-23.

B. Social Media: Cassandra wants items like events sent to her for the FB page.

C. Representation: Wendy is concerned that persons with disabilities are under-represented. If members have issues they want discussed in the meetings, please feel free to send Kim a note to include it on the agenda.

D. Non-discrimination Ordinance revision: Tom has been gathering data to add gender identity and sexual orientation to our non-discrimination ordinance. Ryan Haga spoke of the process in changing the Ordinance.

#### VI. New business

A. One-Year Plan – See Attached: Jessie shared the Draft One-Year plan. She acknowledged that we are all putting in a lot of time outside of our monthly meetings. Ryan acknowledged that we are doing a lot more than the previous commission. Kendall moved, and Tom seconded that we form an adhoc committee to study the diversity issue within the Police Department, with Jim Echols chairing it.

B. Cassandra brought up a complaint that she received. No adequate handicap parking at Bonner Springs Post Office. Jessie recommended that the complainant contact the Department of Justice. The responsibility lies with the GSA, but the DOJ must enforce.

C. Parks & Rec is planning an accessible playground at Pearson Park, and we need to be included in the process. Jeremy Rogers of Parks & Rec will be invited to come speak. Parks & Rec has a legal requirement to comply with ADA.

#### VII. Adjournment at 7:10 PM

**NEXT MEETING: December 4, 2017, 5:30-7:00 PM**