

Advisory Commission on Human Relations & Disability Issues

Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2018

5:30pm

Members present: Jim Echols, Wendy Baker, Kim Dominic, Kendall McReynolds, Valorie Wells-Fenton, Tom Alonzo, Jessie Alvarez, Cynthia Crable

Excused: Winfred Manning, Keren Greenwood

Also present: Maritza Fernandez, Phyllis Wallace

I. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 5:57 PM by Vice Chair Jim Echols

II. Approval of minutes from April meeting –All occurrences of “President” should be “Chairperson” Valorie Wells-Fenton made a motion for approval, Tom Alonzo seconded, Minutes Approved

III. Introductions – Each member introduced themselves. We welcomed Cindy Crable as our new chairperson She is active in Special Olympics, has an autistic son, and is very excited to be part of the advisory commission, especially as it relates to disability issues. Members presented some of the areas in which we have focused. There was a general discussion of possible future direction. There is a need for some education regarding how to interact with persons with disabilities.

IV. Presentations & Reports

A. Reports

1. KCKPD - KU Partnership on Youth Violence update - Kendall McReynolds

a) No report. Kendall has not been able to get anyone to return calls

2. 13th Annual WyCo Ethnic Festival - April 14, 2018, 11AM-5:30 PM – KCKCC

a) Phyllis reported that it was an extraordinary event. Well attended and a wonderful example of diversity. Wendy suggested that we should have a table identified separately from Human Services. Although we are under that umbrella, what is the purpose of us being there if people can go directly to Human Services? Disability issues are not apparent from the Human Services name. Perhaps we could get a table apron that has who we are as the Advisory Commission on Human Relations and Disability Issues. Tom volunteered to look into getting a banner printed.

3. Social Event - April 27, 2018 – Venue got changed at the last minute. Six people attended.

4. Provider/Health fair – May 10, 2018 – 11 AM – 3 PM – Pierson Community Center – Phyllis reported that 30 or so vendors and service providers were present and it was well-attended by the community.

5. Nondiscrimination Ordinance – We made history last week. We are the fourth jurisdiction in the State of Kansas to pass an ordinance protecting people on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Kudos to Tom Alonzo for spearheading the project.

6. Meet & Greet - May 24, 5-7 PM at South Branch Library – It was well-attended by our members, but no one from the community turned out. This is probably not a good use of our volunteer time. May be better to focus on organized community events instead of meet & greets

V. Old Business

A. Special Committee on Law Enforcement - Jim Echols – Chief Ziegler came to speak at our April meeting. We had hoped to have a special committee to work with the police department on hiring and recruiting, especially among minorities, but this has been on hold pending the appointment of the new chairperson.

- B. Pamphlet - Jessie Alvarez – Valorie has done the writing, still in progress and needs to be finished for use at upcoming events
- C. Bio Templates - Maritza Fernandez – all info has been submitted. Will set up pictures for July meeting.
- D. Planning for November KC Metro Human Relations Regional Summit – Phyllis spoke about the event. 8-10 jurisdictions from the metro area. Karen Greenwood has asked for a planning committee. We might have a speaker, and then each community can be allotted a small amount of time to speak. The 6th floor training room should provide adequate space for the gathering. Phyllis, Maritza, and Tom, volunteered to serve on subcommittee. Jim Echols will also help out if needed.
- E. Karen Greenwood had emailed that the following links needed to be fixed.
<http://www.wycokck.org/BOC/Boards/CHRDI.aspx> needs to be linked with the Human Services Dept page at <http://www.wycokck.org/HumanServices/Relations.aspx> and the content updated. – Phyllis will take care of this.
- F. Other Old Business – Jessie reported that Chief Ziegler invited us to try out the police simulator. Is this something we are interested in doing? It may be best to offer to individuals and not as an ACHRDI event.

VI. New business

- A. Strategic planning – Do we want to put together a multi-year strategic plan? Cindy discussed choosing a focus for the year. At our next meeting, we will set aside time for developing our focus.
- B. Upcoming events
 1. Night Out against Crime August 7
 2. Central Venue Betterment Association September 9
 3. Various farmers Markets around the County
- C. Speakers scheduled: July meeting: Rachel Jefferson, Executive Director of Historic Northeast-Midtown Association (HNMA) (*Unconfirmed at the time of the meeting.*) We will hold off on future speakers until the strategic plan is better defined.
- D. Other New Business-
 1. Jim Echols reported on a conversation that he and Jessie Alvarez had with Commissioner Bynum on developing a community wide meeting addressing race. We have deferred until our new chair was on board. Commissioner Bynum is available to speak at our meeting.
 2. Tom talked to Lora MacDonald with MORE2 about recruitment ideas from different cities or people of color for KCKPD.
 3. Tom has talked to the LGBT Liaison for KCMOPD, and Chief Ziegler said that we do not have a LGBT Liaison Officer on the KCK police force. Tom would like to work with Chief Ziegler to develop such a position.
 4. Cindy Crable shared her contact info with the members of the ACHRDI. These are not published here for the protection of her privacy.

VII. Adjournment at 7:15 PM One member left at 6:50 PM, so all items after following item V.B., above, are for informational purposes only and are not official since we no longer had a quorum at that point.

NEXT MEETING: July 2, 5:30 PM