

Advisory Commission on Human Relations & Disability Issues

Meeting Agenda

February 1, 2021

5:30pm

Members present: Abbie Dillard, James Echols, Tom Alonzo, Julie Xiong, Christina Van Cleave, Karen Greenwood

Members Absent: Don Jolley

Others present: Maritza Fernandez

I. Call to order

II. Roll call

III. Old business

- A. Revision on meeting minutes from January - Move by Tom A. Second by Karen – approve Jan. minutes
- B. Safe and Welcoming Kansas City last UG meeting – Marge gave a summary of the special meeting last week. Karen noted two commissioners still seem to be against it. McKiernan and Philbrook seem to be on board if they can get more information. Karen – state commission on justice and police report. There were action steps that can be taken. One of the proposed steps was to issue drivers licenses to undocumented folks. Karen sees Safe and Welcoming as potentially a baby step toward that. Marge asked if it was worthwhile for ACHARDI to send another letter of support of Safe and Welcoming. Karen said it would be good; she heard from a commissioner that our voice is important. Abbie asked when we sent the last letter. Also, should we have a seat at the table? Karen said we could perhaps assist with information gathering. Abbie urged the group to stay engaged and asked Maritza to draft a new letter.
- C. Homelessness in KCK – Public Library notes/comments – Abbie stated she is trying to get a meeting with someone who works in helping people with housing needs. She said she would follow up with the team once they've met. Marge gave a brief update on a presentation in January by the KCK Public library about a pilot program in Canada that provided basic income and support services to homeless people. Showed promising results. Also, the Kansas City Star reported that Bartle Hall is now being used to house homeless people.

IV. New Business

V. Assigning secretary - Marge will be secretary in 2021 and Tom will be backup secretary. Abbie is the Chair, and Jim is the First Vice Chair. Karen is Second Vice Chair.

VI. Goals realignment and assignments – Abbie reminded the group that communication is an important aspect of our work. This includes how we communicate with each other and with the public. Tom said he has worked on this and has questions about the public could leave emails and messages. Also, our Facebook page needs to be updated. Tom said he took some pictures of the cityscape that he will submit for consideration. Profiles for the team was another idea. Maybe one of the ideas for the website is to introduce the public to the ACHARDI on the Facebook page.

There was more discussion about ways the public could reach out to ACHARDI. Abbie said Phyllis and the UG counsel James Bain need to be okay with it, to avoid exposing the UG legally.

Julie said she would help Tom with the Facebook page and other communications. In a prior discussion, the idea of creating a Google doc but not sure if the UG would be okay with it. Abbie said she would check with Mr. Bain to see what he thinks. Christina said SharePoint is easier to use for sharing documents. It's what the UG uses.

Tom said he developed some posters a while back that could be posted at UG public buildings and libraries if they're approved. He will send them on and said he welcomes feedback.

Abbie also said once we are able to meet in person, it will be good to invite the public to the meetings.

Housing issue:

Housing ordinance for Missouri is one we want to model. It is on their website. Abbie stated to her knowledge UG doesn't have a landlord/tenant ordinance. She asked everyone to look at the landlord/tenant ordinance in KCMO, passed last year. Jim and she will get together to discuss.

There was discussion about how to provide information about resources. Christina said MARC has created a guide that she will track down. Community Health Council also has case workers that work with people as well.

That ended the discussion for the evening about goal alignment. Communications plan and housing are the current priorities.

- VII.** Open discussion – Abbie asked Christina to forward information about vaccinations from the health department. Karen also asked if at the March meeting we could set a date to meet at the KC Farm School on Gibbs Road, which would be a great space to do a safe, socially-distanced meeting.

NEXT MEETING: March 1, 2021