

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

## ***Meeting Agenda***

March 1, 2021

5:30pm

Members present: Abbie Dillard, Tom Alonzo, Christina Van Cleave, Karen Greenwood, Marge Gasnick

Members Absent: Don Jolley, Julie Xiong, James Echols

Others present: Maritza Fernandez, Nikki Richardson

### **I. Call to order**

### **II. Roll call**

### **III. Old business**

- A. Motion by Tom to approve minutes of February meeting, seconded by Karen. Motion approved.

### **IV. New Business**

- A. Nikki Richardson with Justice for Wyandotte gave a presentation about a voter participation project she has developed. She noted that voter turnout in Wyandotte County is very low. The Connecting the Dotte project has a goal to improve that. Ways this will happen is a social media campaign, based on zip codes to help people learn what district they live. People will hashtag their zipcode and talk about what they see in their district, good and bad. Next is a video campaign that overlays a zip code map over the commissioner district map. Another piece is a partnership with local talent to start casually talking about the voting process. Traffic will be directed to Connecting the Dotte Facebook page, with the goal of working together on hosting political debates. Connecting the Dotte is offering to do the legwork for the debates as part of a centralized hub to help it become a more centralized, organized process. Organizations would become sponsors, and Connecting the Dotte will accept sponsorships through May 1. Ms. Richardson is looking for more data from WyCo Public Health to better understand issues in each of the zip codes.

Ms. Richardson gave a rundown of what offices are up for election in 2021. These will be local elections and include 5 UG commission seats, Mayor, Sheriff, School Board and BPU Board. In response to a question, she said they would focus on Kansas City, KS. Christina Van Cleave noted that this kind of outreach is needed in Edwardsville and Bonner Springs.

For more information, visit the Connecting the Dots 2021 Facebook page and the Justice for Wyandotte Facebook page. Nikki also hosts a podcast called “The Seventh Street Podcast” that is available through Spotify, Google and Apple.

- B. Housing:** Tom went to a meeting in early February of the Community Housing Improvement Plan (CHIP) representing ACHARDI. Several community organizations were there and talked about the \$200 million in federal funds to provide rental assistance for Kansans. Applications open on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The Kansas eviction moratorium ends at the end of March. Tom will send out links about the rental assistance funds. Abbie encouraged everyone to look for this information, read it and spread it in the community.
- C.** Tom also mentioned he has not been able to send out or look for pictures he mentioned last month. As soon as he gets home he will look for a poster on his home computer.
- D. Juniper Gardens:** Tom said he talked with Dustin Hare, who said he wrote a paper about source of income discrimination on the part of landlords. He said it may be something ACHARDI could help with. Tom will send out a summary to members.
- E.** Abbie encouraged all members to stay engaged in our top issues of housing and voting/justice. She encouraged those to be the issues we focus on for the year. Tom stated he wants to stay engaged on housing. Marge said she would stay engaged on voting. Abbie said each member should focus on two areas and will send this in an email to all members.
- F.** Motion by Marge to adjourn, seconded by Tom. Meeting ended.

**NEXT MEETING: April 5, 2021**