

City of Fairmont-Human Right Commission

**Minutes of:
Regular Meeting
January 26, 2022- 5:30 pm**

The duly called and noticed meeting of the City of Fairmont Human Right's commission was held on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via ZOOM.

Larry Buckland, Commission Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call of Members

Members present:

Larry Buckland
Cyndi Straight
Miki DeMary-Andrew
Dustin Merrell
Robert Martin
Dan Swiger
Tiffany Samuels

Whereupon, a quorum of commissioners was determined to be present for the purposes of conducting the business of said commission as set forth on the Agenda.

In RE: Approval of Meeting minutes from October 27, 2021: Minutes were sent out for review by the commissioners prior to the meeting. No discussion took place.

Cyndi Straight moved that the minutes be approved.
Miki DeMary-Andrew seconded the motion.
Minutes were approved.

In RE: Report from the Committee on Education and Community Forum:

- Cyndy Straight
 - No official report tonight. Will defer to Renee from Community of Shalom
- Renee Verbanic
 - The Multicultural committee training on inclusivity, in conjunction with WVU, is currently on hold due to the covid 19 pandemic. WVU wants to have training in person with 20 attendees per training.
 - Health and Wellness Committee has money for substance abuse related causes and those that have health as a focus.
 - The Annual retreat will be conducted on February 19th, 2022- this is a Saturday. The meeting will be via zoom around 10:00 am. Eventbrite invite will be sent to those interested. This year's theme is "Inclusivity" and members from the community and the Human Rights Commission are welcome to attend.
- Jim Norton
 - Asked for an introduction to new members of the Human Rights Commission:
 - Dusty Merrill, Robert Martin, Dan Swiger- were introduced and welcomed.
 - Artbook project- this project has 15 or 20 entries so far, comprised of various forms of art. Reverend Norton wished to welcome more entries for the publication.

- Spirituality Matter- Brian Kurzack- Brian will offer an 8 week meditation course in collaboration with Mainstreet Yoga. Fees for this course will be donation based and proceeds will be donated to Hope, INC. or Feeding America.
- Cathy Reed with Council of Churches wished to speak during the education portion, about housing.
 - House Bill 4365- regarding Manchin Senior Center possible closure. This is 1 of 3 potential closures of facilities under this bill. She believes it will be detrimental to our community as it will represent a loss of housing for those who currently reside at the center. It will also have an impact on local feeding programs with the Marion County Senior Center, as the meals for meals on wheels are prepared at this location. She called for the community to oppose this bill. A resolution from the Council of Churches will be read on Thursday, January 27th, 2022 at 7:00 pm. Deferred to D. D. Meighan for further discussion.
- D.D. Meighan then read the resolution regarding HB 4365. It will be sent to Charleston legislators and various media outlets. D. D. requested that the City of Fairmont Human Rights Commission endorse the statement.
 - Tiffany Samuels made a motion that Fairmont HRC oppose HB4365.
 - Seconded motion – Miki DeMary-Andrew.
 - None opposed. Motion passed.
- Royce Liden talked about HB 2232-threat to nondiscrimination ordinances. She urged those listening to contact their constituents. She will send more information out at a later time.
- Renee Verbanic- asked that the Fairmont HRC consider bullying prevention topics. There is a proposal for bystanders/upstanders support.
 - Larry Buckland will ensure this topic is at the top of the agenda for the next meeting.

IN RE: Election of Officers

- Cyndi Straight nominated Larry Buckland to continue to lead the Fairmont HRC as head commissioner.
 - Larry Buckland abstained from voting; Tiffany Samuels seconded the motion. All others in favor of his nomination. He will continue to lead the Fairmont HRC.
- Cyndi Straight nominated Miki DeMary-Andrew for the position of secretary. Tiffany Samuels seconded; Miki DeMary-Andrew abstained from voting; all others voted in favor of the motion. Miki DeMary-Andrew will now be secretary of the Fairmont HRC.
- Royce Liden nominated Cyndi Straight for Vice Chair of the Commission. Dan Swiger seconded, all were in favor. Cyndi Straight will now be vice chair of the Fairmont HRC.

IN RE: Announcements from the Commission

- Cyndi Straight- city funding for incidentals and outreach materials request.
 - Renee Verbanic said there is funding available through Communities of Shalom as well
 - Larry Buckland will ask the city for funding.
- Miki DeMary-Andrew- The Marion County Family Resource Network received grant money for covid related programming, particularly for those programs which work in minority populations. More information to come.
- Tiffany Samuels- no announcements at this time
- Dusty Merrill- no announcements at this time
- Dan Swiger- Hometown Markets will happen again this year. There will be free registration for community programs to have informational booths.
 - There is also a grant for Historic Sacred Houses available to assist with repairs. Those interested may him for more information.
- Robert Coffman- no announcements at this time
- Larry Buckland- Asks that we think about opportunities for change and community involvement. Make new contacts and partnerships in the community.
 - The Disability Action Center has moved into their new location. He asks that the community contact them to see what the new center has to offer.

- o The next meeting will be conducted via zoom as well. It will be on February 23rd, 2022 at 5:30 pm. Discussion about hybrid meeting for March will take place at this time.

Adjournment

Cyndi Straight made the motion to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Robert Coffman.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved this the 23 day of February, 2022.

Larry D Buckland
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

Melissa Dolbow - Andrea Paul, MEd
Secretary