

CITY OF FAIRMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**Minutes of:
Regular Meeting
January 27th, 2021 – 5:30p.m.**

The duly called and noticed meeting of the City of Fairmont Human Rights Commission was held on Wednesday, January 27th, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Larry Buckland, Commission Chairperson, called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call of members.

Roll Call of Members

Members Present:

Dani DeVito
Jim Nolan
Cyndi Straight
Larry Buckland

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 12/23/20: 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.
Jim Nolan seconded the motion.
Minutes were approved.

In Re: Report from Committee on Education and Community Forum:

- Jim Nolan
 - SEE ATTACHMENT
 - Discussion on creating a podcast series on religious freedoms and human rights
 - Could do a simultaneous podcast taping, video, and live broadcast
 - Might be able to partner with Communities of Shalom.
 - Could create a whole campaign around the education initiative
 - Jim Nolan made a motion to launch an education campaign on Religious Freedoms and Human Rights
 - Cyndi Straight seconded the motion
 - Motion carried
 - John Shabazz discussed his hope to get the Fairmont City Council to approve a Juneteenth declaration

In Re: Selection of 2021 Commission Officers:

- Dani DeVito made a motion to table the item until the February meeting to allow the new members to be included.
- Cyndi Straight seconded.
- Item is tabled until the February meeting.

In Re: Update on New Members:

- New members were selected and announced at the Fairmont City Council meeting on January 26th, 2021.
- All were present at the Human Rights Commission meeting and Larry Buckland suggested that they introduce themselves.
- Royce Lyden said that she was delighted to be asked to serve and is excited for the continued partnership.
- Miki Demary-Andrews also said that she was excited to be here and has seen a lot happening in the community that she hopes the HRC can help with.
- Tiffany Walker Samuels said that she is truly honored to be joining the group and that she wants to do something to uplift and support our community.

In Re: Open Citizen Forum:

- No one signed up to speak.

In Re: Announcements:

- Jim Nolan
 - Reminder about helping with the newly created campaign and continuing to get involved.
- Cyndi Straight
 - Welcomed the new members of the commission and said that the new minister at First Presbyterian Church is will to get involved with the work the HRC is doing.
- Dani DeVito
 - Also welcomed the new members and thanked everyone for joining the meeting and for all their hard work.
- Larry Buckland
 - Welcomed the new members and said he is excited for all that we have planned.
 - He also challenged everyone to invite people to our meetings that might think differently than us about these issues and to encourage dialogue.

Consideration of Business

Pending Business: NONE

New Business: NONE

Financial Report: NONE

Events/Forums: NONE

Adjournment

Dani DeVito made a motion to adjourn.
Motion seconded by Jim Nolan and carried.
Meeting adjourned.

Approved this the 24th day of February, 2021.

Larry D. Buckland Jr.
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

Franklin D. ...
Secretary

Fairmont Human Rights Commission

January 27, 2021

Education Committee Report

The Hill We Climb by Amanda Gorman



[\(2515\) WATCH: Amanda Gorman reads inauguration poem, 'The Hill We Climb' – YouTube](#)

“We’ve learned that quiet isn’t always peace, and the norms and notions of what “just” is isn’t always justice.”

“And, yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn’t mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect. We are striving to forge our union with purpose. To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man.”

“We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another. We seek harm to none and harmony for all.”

“It’s because being American is more than a pride we inherit. It’s the past we step into and how we repair it.”

“For there is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.”

HRC Education Committee Report

- Black By God West Virginian – Fairmont Human Rights Commission

[Black By God THE WEST VIRGINIANS Online Radio by Black by God THE WESTVIRGINIAN | BlogTalkRadio](#)



Juneteenth Celebration in Fairmont – John Kemet Shabazz El

- 2019 event <https://youtu.be/JyHYTS-OV1M>
- City Council proposal – 2021 National Juneteenth Celebration Resolution designating June 19, 2021 as National Juneteenth Celebration Day for the City of Fairmont WV in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date which slavery legally came to an end in the United States
- The Shabazz Report – See video [\(2515\) The Shabazz Report: The Upper Monongahela National Juneteenth Celebration - YouTube](#)

HRC Education Committee Report

- *Criminal Justice Reform Summit* – January 28-20 - No cost

Over the course of four days, participants will attend sessions exploring the significance of poverty before, during, and after incarceration. In addition to a wide variety of panels, there will be skill-building workshops as well as ample opportunity for participants to connect with one another. The conference will feature national and state-level experts, including people who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system.

[Criminal Justice Reform Summit: Poverty And The Criminal Justice System | WV Criminal Law Reform Coalition \(wvprisonreform.org\)](https://www.wvprisonreform.org/)

- The Equity Summit: Designing an Antiracist Future

[The Equity Summit | Designing an Antiracist Future](https://www.equitysummit.org/)

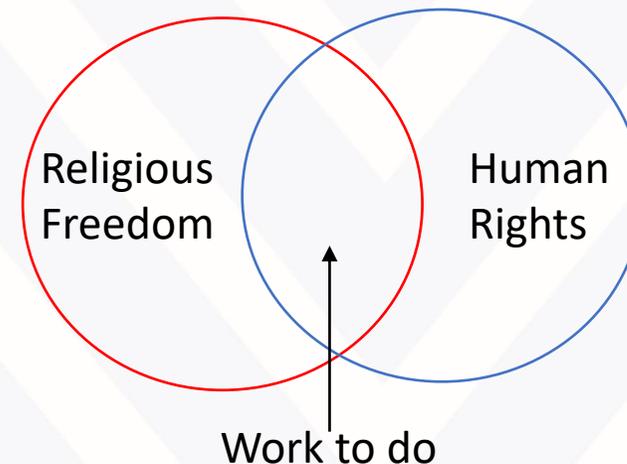
Working at the Intersection of Religious Freedom and Human Rights

- Rabbi Joe Hample
- Rev. Val Gittings
- Rev. Jim Norton
- Cathy Reed (President, Council of Churches)
- Rev. DD Meighan
- Rev. Larry Buckland, HRC
- Cyndy Straight, HRC
- Jim Nolan, HRC

Fairmont televangelist makes anti-Muslim comments in broadcast

Lawmakers in 14 states have proposed anti-LGBTQ bills, many of which target trans youth

Just weeks into 2021, lawmakers in at least 14 states have proposed a slew of discriminatory bills that would restrict the freedoms of LGBTQ residents. Most of the bills would affect transgender young people, according to Freedom For All Americans.



Some of the ideas

- Forum on religion, interfaith dialogue
 - Same sex marriage
 - Open conversation, open minds
- Newspaper articles, Reader's Write and Faith Journeys
- Podcast series
 - Who are our neighbors?
 - You were strangers in the land of Egypt?
 - Topics would emerge as the podcast took on topics
- Will the Human Rights Commission begin work on this topic? Who will be involved?