

City of Fairmont-Human Right Commission

**Minutes of:
Regular Meeting
February 23, 2022- 5:30 pm**

The duly called and noticed meeting of the City of Fairmont Human Right's commission was held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via ZOOM.

Cyndi Straight, Commission Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call of Members

Members present:

Cyndi Straight
Miki DeMary-Andrew
Tiffany Samuels
Dustin Merrell

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.

Motion to excuse chair, Larry Buckland, chair and Dan Swiger, council member.
Tiffany Samuels moved to approve motion, Miki DeMary-Andrew; second motion.

In RE: Approval of Meeting minutes from January 26, 2021: Minutes were sent out for review by the commissioners prior to the meeting. No discussion took place.

Tiffany Samuels moved that the minutes be approved.
Cyndi Straight seconded the motion.
Minutes were approved.

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

- Cyndy Straight
 - No official report tonight. Jim Nolan is moderating a panel this evening and extends the invitation for members of the commission to attend after the meeting has adjourned.

In Re: Resolution on Bullying

- Miki DeMary-Andrew read the following resolution:
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- *Proposed Resolution*

*from the Marion County Communities of Shalom
to the Fairmont Human Rights Commission*

- *WHEREAS episodes of bullying behavior have occurred in Marion County, West Virginia; and,*
 - *WHEREAS such behavior is defined as purposeful, imbalanced and continual mistreatment of individuals because of perceived differences indicating superior/inferior biases; and,*
 - *WHEREAS perpetrators of such behavior usually reveal in their actions need for power, whether it be emotional, physical or social; and,*
 - *WHEREAS bullying behavior is non-nurturing and damaging to the reputation of the entire Marion County region, contributing to those factors that destroy harmony throughout the community; and,*
 - *WHEREAS excellent resources exist to address inappropriate acting-out behaviors in constructive, creative ways that lead to healed relationships, such as the Restorative Justice Method in which some in our region have been trained, other mediation processes, skills and prevention strategies, including empowering bystanders to be more proactive in bullying prevention;*
 - *THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairmont Human Rights Commission and the Marion County Communities of Shalom, Inc., stand with and support Dr. Donna Hage, Superintendent of Marion County Schools, and other city leaders in their determination to find resolutions that enhance opportunity and restore those involved in such instances to a more wholesome educational process; and,*
 - *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that both our agencies stand ready with resources to facilitate durable prevention skills grounded in best practices to ensure healing and harmony in our community's life, if needed.*
- Cyndi Straight asked Royce Lyden for input.
 - Royce Lyden- is in favor of providing resources on bullying prevention. Renee Verbanic is a prevention specialist and has resources to assist this endeavor.
 - Motion to Pass: Tiffany Samuels; second by Miki DeMary-Andrew Motion to approve the resolution passed.

IN RE: Open Citizen's Forum

- **Cathy Reed-** HB 65 has been removed from the agenda today, February 23, 2022. This does not mean that it will not return to the agenda, but for this agenda, it will not be heard. Cathy encouraged community and council members to continue to advocate for the removal of HB 65 and to secure the future of John Manchin Senior housing as well as the meals on wheels program site.
 - Cathy Reed also spoke about the Crown Act Bill 2698, which is up for vote on February 24, 2022. She stated this was a discrimination bill and should not be allowed to pass.

- In addition, "Love Bags" for Hope and the Friendship room, is a campaign to fill bags with necessary supplies for individuals. Supplies and donations will be collected.

IN RE: Announcements from the Commission

- Miki DeMary-Andrew- Town and Gown Theatre will have two shows this summer. Shrek Jr. and Matilda. Auditions for both will take place in March for those who are interested and more information can be found on their social media pages.
- Dusty Merrill - no announcements at this time
- Tiffany Samuels- DSF Stop program will partner with the Windmill Park Juneteenth program this year. Juneteenth celebrations will take place at Windmill Park on June 18th, 2022. There will be vendors, music, community programs and more. Free and for pay businesses will be present as well.
 - Tiffany Samuels also reviewed some of the concerns with bullying and racial discrimination at East Fairmont Middle School. At a recent board of education meeting, concerns were voiced regarding bullying issues. Tiffany informed the commission that hate crime complaints were filed with the police department but that the parents and families were discouraged from filing a report. Cyndi Straight will speak with commission chair and Communities of Shalom about the bullying and discrimination issues and what the HRC might do to assist in educating and intervening in this matter.
- Miki DeMary-Andrew will speak with the Marion County Family Resource network about the possibility that they may assist in this matter as well.
- Dusty Merrill-stated he could be of assistance in the social media campaigns as well as creating podcasts for informational purposes.
- Cyndi Straight-
 - Motion for next meeting to be hybrid by Cyndi Straight. Second the motion- Tiffany Samuels
 - The next meeting will be conducted hybrid in person or on zoom for those wishing to attend virtually. The meeting will be on March 23rd, 2022 at 5:30 pm.

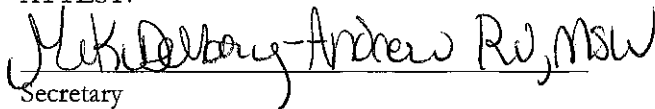
Adjournment

Tiffany Samuels made the motion to adjourn.
Motion seconded by Miki DeMary-Andrew.
Meeting adjourned.

Approved this the 23rd day of March, 2022


CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:


Secretary

