

CITY OF FAIRMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**Minutes of:
Regular Meeting
March 24th, 2021 – 5:30p.m.**

The duly called and noticed meeting of the City of Fairmont Human Rights Commission was held on Wednesday, March 24th, 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
Royce Lyden
Tiffany Samuels
Miki Demary

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 2/24/21: Minutes were sent out for review by the commissioners prior to the meeting. No discussion took place.

Royce Lyden moved that the minutes be approved.
Cyndi Straight seconded the motion.
Minutes were approved.

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

- Jim Nolan
 - Funding is still there for the City of Fairmont training
 - HRC and Communities of Shalom have also been invited to participate in training
- Renee Verbanic
 - Communities of Shalom is doing doing 65 minutes of skills and sensibility
 - Next one is next week
 - They usually have 10-20 people
 - They are also starting a new book club using the book “Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man”
 - They are working with the City to try to offer the book study to City Council members as well as other City employees

- They will be having a virtual “Our Stories, Our Solutions” conference in August 2021
 - They are currently looking for people to present 60-90 minute workshops or sessions for the event.
- Jim Norton
 - He is currently working on an art project with Communities of Shalom to boost moral in the community.
 - The idea of the project is to publish a book with submitted art from resident in the region.
 - They have a team assembled and are currently working to schedule an organizational meeting.
- Jim Nolan
 - He has been working to put together a couple of videos regarding police reform.
 - He will be sending them out to the group.
 - He will also be sending out information regarding systemic discrimination.

In Re: Open Citizen Forum:

- None

In Re: Announcements:

- Jim Nolan
 - Thanked Miki Demary for taking the lead in helping to create our recent statement about anti-Asian discrimination.
- Tiffany Samuels
 - Reported that more than 500 members of the African-American community in our city/county have been vaccinated at the recent clinics that were set up.
 - Several people have reached out to her and others about help with transportation and she is appreciative of that.
 - The Crown Act (proposed WV legislation) would state that people can wear their hair naturally without having to worry about being discriminated against for hiring, etc.
- Cyndi Straight
 - Welcome Rev. Walker to the meeting and to the City.
 - Thanked Jim Nolan for all of his hard work with the education committee.
- Miki Demary
 - Let everyone know that COVID vaccines are now available to anyone that is 16 or over.
 - She volunteered at the vaccination clinic last week and encouraged others to do the same.
 - Announced that there would be a vigil for the victims of the Atlanta Shootings on March 26th at 7:30pm and that is will be live streamed.
- Dani DeVito
 - Also thanked Miki Demary for her work on crafting our recent statement.

- Thanked Communities of Shalom for their continued partnership and hard work on helping us to be successful.
- Larry Buckland
 - Thanked Rev. Walker and Rabbi Joe for coming and thanked some of our City Council members for coming to our meetings.

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 Cyndi Straight and carried.
Meeting adjourned.

Approved this the 26 day of May, 2021.



CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:



Secretary