

Human Relations Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2019 5:00 p.m.

Please note that there is no recording of the meeting.

Attendance: Jeanette Blackwell, Justin Carbonella, Brandie Doyle, Henry Fernandez, Precious Price, Debbie Ruimerman, Howard Thody, and Faith Jackson, Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management

Excused Absence: Ed Ford and Ava Hart

Absence: Evan Davis, Youth in Government Representative, and Ani Zakarian, Youth in Government Representative

QUORUM: *Yes:* X *No:*

Call to Order: Chairperson Carbonella called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Randi Renee McCray of NCCJ was in attendance via conference call. Betsy Morgan and Beverly Lawrence of the Racial Justice Coalition were also present.

Public Session: None.

Regular Meeting:

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Carbonella asked for a motion to approve the Revised Meeting Agenda for October 16, 2019. Commissioner Doyle motioned to approve the revised agenda. Commissioner Blackwell seconded. The chairperson called for a vote. The motion was properly carried. Chairperson Carbonella asked for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2019. Commissioner Hernandez motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2019. Commissioner Ruimerman seconded it. The chairperson called for a vote. The motion was properly carried.

Old Business:

Chairperson Carbonella asked Randi Renee McCrae via conference call to speak on three specific items:

1. Summary on previous two focus groups
2. Plan of action for the remaining two focus groups
3. Next action

Randi Renee McCrae said that Nyaunu Stevens indicated that the focus groups had gone well and that there was no major issue. Chairperson Carbonella and Commissioner Price asked for a roster of the attendees.

Randi Renee McCrae spoke on how they will conduct the community conversations. She said that they will set up the space in a café style to cover topics from the focus groups. Someone will take notes. The discussion topics will be from the focus groups, and the discussion will rotate around the tables. Ideally, key City officials will also be present to hear the discussion. During the introduction, the facilitators will put the conversation in context and explain the topics that will be discussed. One of the discussion topics will be the question of “what’s next.” What types of changes or improvements would people like to see, such as employment, etc.? The dialogue has to be managed, and the commission should be mindful of what it wants to learn from the conversation. Also, there will be a debriefing on the focus groups. The conversation will have between 30 to 40 participants, six to eight per table. It will run approximately two hours.

There was also discussion on moving forward. Randi Renee McCrae said they would have to hold to the work planned to move it forward. Additionally, it’s important that the new administration sustains this work. Director Jackson said that this is a critical exercise for the City. She added that she will look into the process for amending the contract to include a 90-day extension. Due to the holidays, it is likely that the community conversations will not occur until mid-January or early February and would be part of the January presentation of outcomes and updates requested by Councilman Nocera.

New Business:

Review: The commission reviewed the 2019 attendance.

Announcements The next meeting of the commission will be November 20, 2019 at City Hall in room 208.

Adjournment: Commissioner Fernandez motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Price seconded. The chairperson called for a vote. The motion was properly carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Kasey Maurice,
Administrative Sec. III