

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 1, 2020

**Attendance:** virtual meeting via Zoom.

**Commissioners:**

Wasiullah Mohamed, Chair

David C. Bush

Rabbi Sharyn Henry

Jen Presutti

Rev. Liddy Barlow

J. Matthew Landis

**Staff:**

Megan Stanley, Director

Wesley Speary, Deputy Director

Rita Porterfield

Emily Costello

Chris Sault

Rachel Shepherd

Jam Hammond

**Guests:**

Julia Chan

Gia Fagnelli

Noah

Sara Lee Coffey

Thea Young

Alaa Mohamed

Elaine Healy

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- a. Chair Mohamed Called the meeting to Order at 3:33 p.m.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

- a. Gia Fagnelli: looking to get involved in defunding the police on a local level; wants to invest in Black leadership on the issue.
- b. Gia: What role does Commission play in reinvesting in community and what is the Commission going to do about police using illegal chemicals and used mounted police?
- c. Director Stanley mentioned Citizens Police Review Board as helpful in demanding accountability; Office of Municipal Investigation, and Commission independence and dedication to enforcing anti-discrimination laws and providing outreach and education.
- d. Julia Chan came to support greater justice in the Pittsburgh Community, looking to be an ally to the Black community and seeking police reform.
- e. Thea Young action of infiltrators in the protest and what will the Commission do; some of those things are outside of jurisdiction, but will take complaints and continue to be present to show outreach and support.
- f. Wes Speary: jurisdiction can be expanded by legislation; Commission can also recommend improved legislative initiatives

### **III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- a. May 4, 2020
- b. Comments: none
- c. Motion to Adopt Minutes as noted by Commissioner Henry ; Seconded by Commissioner Presutti; unanimous voice vote in favor.

### **IV. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORT**

#### **a. Director's Report**

- i. Please share events with Commission if Commission presence is desired; need to be present in this time as a resource and ally.*
- ii. Gender Awareness in the Media:*
  - 1. Responsory to recent media misgendering;*
  - 2. about 60 local media workers involved*
  - 3. Focus on proper pronouns and how to be a better ally*
- iii. Gender Awareness in Pittsburgh*
  - 1. June 5, 2020*
  - 2. 163 currently enrolled*
- iv. Jam Hammond: Trans community is building and provided support. Project Silk resource center for Queer/trans People of Color and community allies; SisTers Pittsburgh, others involved.*
- v. Received HUD CARES COVID monies.*
- vi. Tyler will continue as intern and work on curricula for awareness, outreach, and youth education*
- vii. Report itself is available*

#### **b. Finance Committee**

- i. No update from last report*
- ii. Additional \$23,000 from HUD for staffing (temp) outreach and education*

iii. *Expecting HUD contract cut, but could be eligible for modification*

**c. Community Relations Committee**

i. *Outreach Log available*

ii. *No report to make*

**d. Housing Committee**

i. *Planning on meeting soon*

ii. *Eviction crisis is coming; may be need to pay back rent; mediator program should help alleviate*

iii. *Mediators at this point tend to be older, white, and female. Goal is to provide more community training to be more diverse and inclusive*

iv. *Wes Speary:*

1. *Aftermath of mortgage foreclosure moratorium*

2. *Predatory lending and house buying*

3. *Using existence of code violations as a high pressure sales tactic*

4. *How to balance needs of small landlords and stabilizing tenants*

**e. Personnel Committee**

i. *Officer Elections*

1. *Slate:*

a. *Mohamed - Chair*

b. *Rev. Liddy Barlow – Vice Chair*

c. *Tracy Baton – Second Vice Chair*

d. *David C. Bush – Treasurer*

e. *J. Matthew Landis – Secretary*

2. *Motion to accept slate by Commissioner Barlow; seconded by Commissioner*

ii. *Rules: allow for regular telepresence attendance/virtual engagement*

1. *Motion to amend bylaws as proposed by Commissioner Henry; Seconded by Commissioner Presutti.*

2. *Unanimous voice vote in favor. No abstentions.*

iii. *Director evaluation to occur this month*

**f. Public Hearing Section**

i. *Four (4) cases on track for public hearing.*

ii. *Scheduled for mid-June; if resolved, no progression to Hearing*

iii. *If progressed, could be Fall or end of year.*

**V. NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS**

a. *Legal Externs*

b. *Next meeting July 13, 2020*

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Commissioner Landis; seconded by Commissioner Henry; unanimous vote in favor.

