

**Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations
Minutes of Meeting
May 7, 2018**

Attendance: Liddy Barlow (by phone) Richard Morris (by phone)
 Winford Craig, Chair Mariana Padias (on phone)
 Helen Gerhardt Allyce Pinchback
 Sharyn Henry Lori Roth
 Marian Lien Jessica Ruffin
 Gabriel McMorland Gwendolyn Young (by phone)

Absent: Eric Holmes
 Eric Horwith
 Wasiullah Mohamed

Staff: Carlos Torres, Director
 Megan Stanley, Deputy Director
 Richard Rogow, Commission Rep.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Craig called the meeting to order at 3:35pm.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Craig made a motion to adopt the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Padias.

IV: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Director Torres reported on Celebration of Fair Housing Act at the August Wilson Center, attended by 200, with good feedback from participants
- Leanne Davis resigned her position after finding a position at the City Law Dept. There are 25 applicants thus far, with interviews to be scheduled soon.
- HUD contract ends in June, so PghCHR staff will be working on closing Housing cases.
- The PghCHR will send the Commission's new Deputy Director Megan Stanley and Investigator Emily Costello to John Marshall Housing Conference in Chicago on May 23rd.

V. FINANCE REPORT

No updates.

VI. COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Lien reported that the committee is having some difficulty with attendance of meetings. A face to face meeting will be arranged for the next time.

Director Torres reported that University of Pittsburgh Professor Jackie Smith volunteered to produce a couple-page summary analysis of the Human Rights Assessment, now being polished by Deputy Director Stanley before distribution. Director would like to have a report similar to the Annual Report to be distributed to public and partners, which would include Commission data on PghCHR patterns of complaints, neighborhood accessibility, issues within housing, community access to amenities such as grocery stores, public transit, day care, etc, cases integrated with data results of the Human Rights Assessment, from Voltrix analysis of answers from 1788 surveys, with narrative to help explain the numbers and data analysis. Commissioner Lien asked if the Commission staff needed help with that work and Director Torres said that it would be helpful to develop strategy based on the eight-page high-level summary of the report.

Director Torres reported that he will be meeting with the Finance Committee to start working on budget request for 2019. Chairman Craig stated that the previous request for funding to support development of a strategic planning and for some equipment was not approved, but that they would be trying again. Commissioner Roth suggested requesting more funding for advertising. Commissioner Pinchback suggested requesting funding for the Youth Human Relations Commission.

VII. HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Morris reported that the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh was collecting comments throughout May _____ on how the value of Housing Choice vouchers are being calculated. He believed that

Commissioner Gerhardt reported that the AFFH Task Force will begin their community engagement process, with kickoff on May 19th and in-depth overviews of recommendations taking place in June, July, and August and then feedback meetings in September and October in North, south, east, and west of Pittsburgh.

Commissioner Roth asked that the Commission put out a calendar of upcoming events and wants to help but has not been kept informed of what the committee is doing and how she can be engaged. Commissioner Morris stated that he will meet to cover what the committee is doing and how Commissioners can be engaged. Commissioner Roth also asked whether or not there will be regular Housing Committee meetings and Commissioner Morris stated that they had been called as needed. Commissioner Gerhardt stated that she would share more information about the AFFH Task Force with Commissioner Roth. Commissioner Roth suggested that the AFFH Task Force reach out to the universities that are also very familiar with patterns of discrimination encountered by students.

VIII: PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

No report.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING SECTION

Commissioner Gerhardt stated that there would be an upcoming Public Hearing section Theron Pitts vs Community Human Services and asked for Commissioners on that section to contact her regarding their availability. She also stated that with the additional obligations she has taken on for the AFFH Task Force and with her Commission term coming to an end after October, she will not have enough time to organize a hearing on transportation and civil rights in the City. Chairman Craig asked that Commissioner Gerhardt reconsider and go forward with such a public hearing since transportation is a critical civil rights issue.

X. BYLAWS AD HOC COMMITTEE

Commissioner Young stated that she would table her report to another time.

XI. AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Commission Pinchback reported that there are promising opportunities for funding, both in upcoming budgeting cycle as well as through applying for grants. Commissioner Mohamed will be sharing information on what other cities are doing and what other organizations in the County are doing to inform the Commission's efforts.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Craig stated that new officers will be nominated in June and that Commissioners can either nominate someone else or nominate themselves.

Commissioner Pinchback noted that the bylaws state that the full slate should be ready a month in advance of the meeting at which a vote takes place, with ten days notification by email. Commissioner Young has been unable to convene a meeting of the Nomination Committee due to her surgery, and so that the current timetable is not following the letter the law.

Commissioner Ruffin made a motion that we delay the elections until July to allow for enough time for all Commissioners to participate so that we stay in compliance with our bylaws. Commissioner McMorland seconded.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Roth with a second from Commissioner McMorland.