Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations

Minutes of Meeting

March 2, 2020

ATTENDANCE: at Rodef Shalom Congregation, 4905 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

Commissioners:	Rabbi Sharyn Henry
	Rev. Liddy Barlow
	Zack Block
	BJ Samson
	Tracy Baton via telepresence
	Jennifer Presutti via telepresence
	David C. Bush via telepresence
Staff:	Wesley Speary, Deputy Director
	Rita Porterfield
	Jam Hammond
	Rachel Shepherd
	Emily Costello
Guests:	Mark Hamilton, Solicitor
	Charlie Morrison, Former Director Commission on Human Relations
	Alaa Mohamed via telepresence

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Barlow called the meeting to order at approximately 3:33 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Guest Speaker Charlie Morrison, former Director of the Commission, addressed the Commissioners. He acknowledged the unique work the Commission does as staff and as Commissioners; and emphasized the importance of building community relationships.

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- Motion by Commissioner Henry; Seconded by Commissioner Block; unanimous voice vote in favor of the motion
- No abstentions; no votes in opposition

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

V. COMMITTEE & STAFF REPORTS

- **Director's Report**
  - Director's written report was submitted in advance of the meeting
  - Presentation of proposed rule changes from Solicitor Mark Hamilton.
    - Rule 13 – Reconsideration:
      - Clarifying to add that requests for reconsideration must be accompanied by new evidence
      - New evidence must also be relevant/material
      - This is a clarification of the rule to reflect longstanding CHR practice with regard to reconsiderations.
    - Rule 2 – Definition of a day
      - Define a day as a calendar day, resembles Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
      -
    - **Discussion**
      - Commissioner Samson inquired about publication in the newspaper; costs estimated to be $2,000 or so
      - Deputy Director Speary suggested online social media posting, email list, website posting
    - Motion by Commissioner Block to approve the proposed Rule 13 change; Commissioner Barlow seconded; unanimous voice vote in favor; no abstentions.
    - Motion by Commissioner Block to approve the proposed Rule 2 change; Commissioner Barlow seconded; unanimous voice vote in favor; no abstentions.
- **Finance Committee:**
  - Fiscal Coordinator Shepherd: Mayor's Office has instructed all departments to cut non-personnel spending by 5% until 2024, which will affect supplies and training resources.
- **Community Relations Committee**
  - The committee met as scheduled.
  - Discussed organization contacts and community intake models
  - Essay contest for your outreach

- Deputy Director Speary
    - currently volunteering at a middle school and wants to partner for the essay contest
    - follow up on partnership with Propel Schools
    - CAIR outreach partner
    - Drafting list of referral resources and community partners to conduct community intakes
    - Desire to participate in Juneteenth, St. Patrick's Day Parade, etc.

Housing Committee

- Deputy Director Speary
    - Next meeting March 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
    - AFFFHTF revival for measurement and metrics, informal resurrection
    - Federal Rules Changes as proposed would weaken/limit concrete steps toward goals
    - Deputy Director will email proposed rule changes
- Planning April event, considering 2 ½ hour time slot on a weekday evening
    - Considering Energy and Innovation Center (formerly Connelly Trade School) with catering and childcare
    - Dates are April 15, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
    - Looking for more sponsorship, some corporate developers have pledged support
    - Bulk of budget will go towards catering and childcare; $3,000 being a low estimate on costs.
    - Commissioner Samson mentioned having leads on sponsorship and would reach out
    - Commissioner Baton emphasized having a problem with corporate sponsorship
    - Commissioner Block suggested the sponsorship issue be tabled for offline discussion
- Considering having a CLE course w/ Allegheny County Bar Association to focus on Fair Housing in April

Personnel Committee

- No report
- **Public Hearing Committee**
  - Planning to conduct training with Mark Hamilton
  - Meeting March 12, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

VI. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

- Mediation Training reminder
- HB 365 a/k/a "Anti-Squatter Bill"
  - Passed through PA House
  - Would allow for police/constable to remove people from their residences upon a landowner's mere submission of affidavits
  - Executive Committee to review and determine comments
- Building relationship with Gender Equity Commission
- Need Community meeting locations for:
  - June
  - September
  - South and West are not often visted
- Commissioner Attendance:
  - When Commission revised its bylaws, Commissioners were still expected to appear in-person when possible.
  - There are limits on absences and telepresence appearances
  - Commissioners kindly asked to abide by the current bylaws until the bylaws are updated
- 2019 Annual Report
  - Commissioners asked to submit 250 or so word biographies to submit to Fiscal Coordinator Shepherd as possible
- Deputy Director Speary
  - Commissioners Henry, Barlow, and Mohamed have been reappointed by the Mayor
  - William Toliver proposed by the Mayor as a new Commissioner

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Samson; Seconded by Commissioner Henry; unanimous voice vote in favor, no abstentions. Adjourned 5:15 p.m.