

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dannie Edmon, Dora Grant, Dan Leavell, Jennifer Washington, Ted Huston and Bev Newell-Hancock.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Harvey Heys.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerry Garrett – Consultant and Kelly Kresser – Clerk.

Dora Grant called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

CURRENT BUSINESS

Upon motion of Dan Leavell and second of Bev Newell-Hancock, the members voted to approve the Minutes of the December 17, 2015 meeting and suspend the oral reading. The Chairperson declared the motion passed.

Dora Grant asked if there were nominations from the floor for Chairperson of the HRC. Upon motion of Ted Huston and second of Dannie Edmon, Jennifer Washington was nominated for Chairperson. Dan Leavell nominated Dora Grant for Chairperson and she respectfully declined. There being no other nominations from the floor, Dora Grant announced Jennifer Washington would be the new Chairperson for 2016.

Dora Grant asked if there were nominations from the floor for Vice Chairperson of the HRC. Upon motion of Ted Huston and second of Jennifer Washington, Dora Grant was nominated for Vice Chairperson. There being no other nominations from the floor, Dora Grant is the new Vice Chairperson for 2016.

Upon motion of Dan Leavell and second of Ted Husotn, the members voted to accept the budget as presented by Jerry Garrett.

Discussion: Dan Leavell said he has not been available to meet with the Budget Committee but said the budget submitted by Jerry Garrett was appropriate, but would like to see it go a little bit higher. Dan Leavell said it would be more appropriate to use the title of Executive Director of the HRC rather than Consultant. Jerry Garrett said \$7,200 was set aside in the budget for Balin & Associates per their quotation and said there would be two sessions for the HRC members and members of organizations and companies. There would likewise be two sessions for interested citizens and members of the public. The total budget figure is \$24,000 and includes supplies & materials, travel & training and wages & fringes. Dannie Edmon asked how much to ask for from grant sources and said the city could receive these monies but spend them for purposes other than those identified. Jerry Garrett said after the forums are conducted by Balin & Associates, the results will be evaluated regarding future sessions. Ted Huston said he has heard the City Commission is considering disbanding the HRC because of a lack of activity; this group may have fumbled the ball because of a lack of understanding about

what they are supposed to do. The HRC is now on track and needs more advertising and awareness. They will continue to provide value to the community and there is a definite need for it. The Affirmative Action Board existed previously but after it was dissolved and the HRC was created, the city did nothing for affirmative action. There needs to be more diversity by the city. Dan Leavell said the HRC has existed for a number of years with nothing of interest but simply hold meetings, and there has not been follow through. Jennifer Washington said the HRC first needs to get money allocated by the City Commission but does not want to see the title of Consultant changed to Executive Director. Jerry Garrett said the proposed amount of \$24,000 will put the HRC on track for CY 2016 and the members should be proud of its accomplishments in 2015 including the creation of by-laws, approval of a process to analyze complaints, and interactions with two citizens. This Commission now is in a better place to reach out to other citizens. Dannie Edmon said he would not be willing to ask for money from outside sources if this is the only money the HRC will receive. Bev Hancock-Newell asked what the response would be if the City Commissioners would ask what the HRC has done. The HRC cannot be disbanded as they are a legal entity and should not have to come up with their own funding; this should come from the city. Ted Huston said there is justification to ask for additional dollars and to simply ask for it. Dannie Edmon said the HRC has an image problem and it needs to market itself. Clean water is an issue in the country because of the Flint, Michigan water problem and the HRC could be utilized to talk about Sandusky's clean water but needs enough money budgeted to tackle some of these issues. Jerry Garrett said he will work with Kelly Kresser to submit this to the city.

Roll call on the motion: Yes: Dannie Edmon, Dora Grant, Jennifer Washington, Ted Huston and Dan Leavell, 5. Nays: Beverly Newell-Hancock, 1. Jennifer Washington declared the motion passed.

Jennifer Washington suggested **preparing pamphlets and mailing them to every citizen** about the Human Relations Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ted Huston said **the HRC should be addressing how the city is living up to the mandates established by the Federal Court regarding affirmative action** as the city has neglected them. Dan Leavell asked if the training offered by Balin Associates would cover this training. The police should not be policing themselves; rather, the HRC should be trained on how to conduct investigations. Bev Newell-Hancock said she understands this commission has been chastised by Naomi Twine, Trevor Hayberger and Don Icsman. The HRC has never been participants to the Andre Stockett issue to this day. Ted Huston said when Bill Smith was the City Solicitor in

1976, Bill Smith said the affirmative action lawsuit would never get passed, but he was proved wrong. The police need to be investigated and those in the community who he speaks with all feel this way. Jennifer Washington asked Ted Huston to be in charge of reporting back to the HRC of some potential strategies with investigating the police department. Ted Huston said the majority of people will not want to hear this, but black persons get stopped (traffic) for nothing and this happened to his granddaughter who was charged with trespassing. After calls to the Police Chief and the Judge, his granddaughter went to court and these charges were thrown out. She was arrested a second time at Christmas last year after being pulled over at 4 a.m.; this case was also thrown out. Black kids should not be fearful of arrest simply for being black and there are some knuckleheads on the Police Department who sometimes cover up for other officers. The HRC needs the passion to pursue this fight. Dan Leavell said the HRC will continue in the long-term as a charter change would be required in order to eliminate it; the HRC needs to be given subpoena powers to investigate.

Dannie Edmon said **Loretta Riddle is interested in joining the HRC** and will get her contact information to Kelly Kresser.

Dannie Edmon suggested a meeting in September to discuss **strategic planning for the HRC** in 2017.

Dan Leavell asked to discuss **outside funding** at the next HRC meeting as well as a discussion about having a **Consultant versus an Executive Director**.

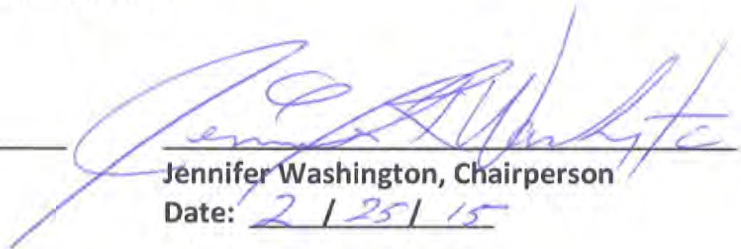
ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Dan Leavell and second of Ted Huston, the members voted to adjourn at 5:47 p.m. The Chairperson declared the motion passed.



Attest: Kelly L. Kresser, CMC

Date: 2/25/16



Jennifer Washington, Chairperson

Date: 2/25/15