

MINUTES OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING – JANUARY 29, 2024

Date and time: 01/29/2024 05:30 pm

Present: Adrienne Lindsay, Tom Clapp, LeWanda Jackson, Norlian Vickers, and City Clerk Kathie Ratliff

Absent: None

Location: Fulton City Hall Executive Conference Room

DISCUSSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:25 p.m. with the Fulton Human Rights Commission President, Tom Clapp, presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by introduction of self to visitor Sara Beth McIntire-Clapp. There were four members present, none absent. Quorum met.

3. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

There were no comments.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Decision Motion was made by LeWanda Jackson and seconded by Norlian Vickers to approve the minutes from November 27, 2023. All in favor, motion carries.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Celia Event Discussion

The Celia event garnered a decent turnout despite the absence of publicity, and it was deemed a pleasant occasion. The discussion revolved around past events, prompting questions about related previous celebrations, acknowledgments, and events. Historically, activities included walks, candlelight vigils, and arthouse events.

Discussion gave way to speakers (past and present) for the event. Dr. Pauley, a playwright and author from Jefferson City, Solomon Thurman, portrait artist, and Pamela Westbrook Hodge, Missouri State Board of Education member, Deborah Green, Head of the History Department at Lincoln University, were highlighted.

President Clapp expressed a desire to elevate the significance of the Celia story, proposing that the Coalition Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CardV) become involved. He emphasized the story as not only racial but also a woman's story. Seeking assistance and ideas, he suggested the creation of a play that encompasses the entirety of the story, including both positive and negative aspects.

Norlian Vickers mentioned that William Woods has a new Black Student Union and suggested exploring a partnership. He proposed planning the production for December 21, 2024, but noted that students would be away at that time. Further coordination and planning would be required to align with the academic calendar.

HRC Discussion: Member Recruitment

The discussion centered around identifying potential members who could be recruited for appointment to the Human Rights Commission.

Jane Bierdeman-Fike Humanitarian Award Discussion

The commission is seeking votes for the Jane Biederman-Fike Award and has asked for its inclusion in the upcoming City of Fulton newsletter, encouraging voting until May. They've shared a list of names from previous submissions with all commission members to use for the vote. The provided list will be the foundation for the vote, but no details on the voting process were discussed. It was stated that the winner will be acknowledged at the Juneteenth event.

Juneteenth Discussion

In preparation for the Juneteenth celebration, a comprehensive discussion and event outline have been established, contingent on participant responses. The specified date for the event is June 15, with potential speakers identified as Pamela Westbrook Hodge, who will be contacted by President Clapp, or alternatively, Deborah Green, approached by Adrienne in case Ms. Hodge is unavailable. Additionally, Dawn Payne is considered for a potential poem contribution. The designated venue for the event is the Legends Rec-Plex Banquet Room.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Budget Discussion

The budgetary concerns were addressed with a total request of \$1000 as a whole number. The breakdown includes \$200 for the Celia event, \$100 for speakers at the Juneteenth celebration, \$400 for the Juneteenth event, an allocation for a cake, \$100 for the Jane Biederman-Fike project (with Clapp suggesting a split with the county), and \$100 for the Fair Housing Poster Award.

Decision: Motion was made by Norlian Vickers and seconded by Adrienne Lindsey to request \$1000 from the Fulton City Council for the 2024 project and event needs of the Human Rights Commission. All in favor.

Other:

Celia Statue

The discussion centered on the proposal for a new statute dedicated to Celia. It was suggested that the statue be life-sized, and there is a need to determine an appropriate location for its placement. A suggestion was made to position it in front of the wall at the justice center. The idea was put forth for the Human Rights Commission (HRC) to act as a committee to oversee the placement and approach the commissioners for approval. Clapp expressed the opinion that the statue could provide a balanced addition to the existing wall. Further considerations will be taken in hopes to move forward with this proposal.

Fair Housing Poster Contest

The discussion during the meeting focused on the Fair Housing Poster, exploring strategies to disseminate information to students in schools for the upcoming event this year. Various ideas and approaches were considered to effectively reach the student population and raise awareness about the Fair Housing Poster initiative.

Vickers will contact school liaisons to encourage student participation in the Fair Housing Poster event. The judging of the posters is scheduled for April 29, and submissions are required to be submitted by April 15.

Meeting Dates

The decision was made to cancel the July meeting of the HRC rescheduling it to June 3.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is planned for April 29th, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Decision Motion was made by Adrienne Lindsay and Seconded by Norlian Vickers to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Kathie Ratliff