City of Aurora
Human Relations Commission
January 9, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Present
Susan Sosa Bachmeier, Robert Lundquist, Ryan Maley, Hortencia Ramos, Vice Chair William Small, Chief Kristen Ziman (ex-officio)

Absent
Bertha Baillie, Zachary Draves, Sheila Gray, Dr. Symone Lewis

Call to Order and Roll Call
Vice-Chair Small called the meeting to order at 5:43 PM.
Ryan Maley took roll call and noted a quorum was present.
Alex Voigt from the City of Aurora was also present.

Minutes Approval
Ms. Sosa-Bachmeier moved the minutes from the November 14, 2019 be approved with one typographic correction. Mr. Lundquist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Complaint Reviews
There are no open complaints

City of Aurora Human Resources Presentation
Vice-Chair Small reported that Alicia Lewis of the City of Aurora was unable to attend the meeting and the presentation is postponed until February.

Brochures in Spanish
Vice-Chair Small reported that Spanish-language brochures are available. Commissioners should contact Ms. Voigt to get brochures from City Hall.

Update on Check Disbursement
Mr. Maley reported that disbursement checks from the last meeting have been prepared and checks for African American Men of Unity, Interfaith Aurora, and World Relief have been distributed. IACOB is scheduled for Jan 11. Other are being scheduled and will be distributed by Jan 28.
**Commission Members Update**
Vice-Chair Small discussed the current roster of the Commission and asked about the process for appointing new members. Ms. Voigt reported that people interested in serving on the Commission can contact her at the Mayor’s Office or go on-line to apply.

There was a discussion about attendance and quorum. With the recent resignations, the quorum is now five and the majority of a quorum is now three. Per the Open Meetings Act, three Commissioners cannot meet and discuss public business. Mr. Draves had previously offered to resign but has not officially done so. Mr. Maley will contact him to solicit the resignation.

**Explanatory Video on Complaint Form**
Vice-Chair Small discussed the idea of an explanatory video which will help people provide the correct information on complaint forms. Mr. Maley showed a video he prepared following up on his action item from the last meeting.

After viewing the video, Commissioners agreed that this was the right approach and should be finalized. Mr. Lundquist made a motion to finalize and post explanatory videos in English and Spanish. Ms. Ramos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Maley will create a final recording in English and Ms. Ramos will record a copy in Spanish.

**Focus Area Reports**

**AFD**
Ms. Gray was not present. The topic was not discussed.

**Religious Issues**
Ms. Bachmeier reported that members of the Commission attended today’s meeting of Interfaith Aurora to present the 2019 disbursement check. She will be participating in Interfaith Aurora meetings on a regular basis and will work with the group as appropriate. She reported that the group holds a “Get To Know Your Neighbor” event on fifth Sundays. The next event will be about the Bahai faith.

**Education**
Former Chairperson Mae Smith was leading this effort. Since her resignation, there is no leadership for this task. Vice-Chair Small will leave this item on the agenda for some time should a Commissioner wish to take the lead.

**LGBTQ+ Issues**
Mr. Maley presented information n behalf of Ms. Baillie. Work has continued on the two areas previously agreed upon: Events and Policy to address gaps in support for the LGBTQ+ community as identified during an initial listening session with community members.
Ms. Baillie is planning a series of events in 2020 titled **Fairness and Equality for a Better Aurora**. The events will be sponsored by the Aurora Human Relations Commission and the Aurora Public Library (APL) to be held at the Santori Library. The first two events have been scheduled and will be listed in the Spring newsletter from the APL. They events are:

- **Growing Your Business with LGBTQ+ Friendly Practices** to be held March 16th from 6:30-7:30.
- **Fair and Equitable Housing in Aurora** to be held Thursday, May 7th from 6:30-7:30

The goal is to schedule events every other month. We will be creating or soliciting content for July, September, and November. Any Commissioner who has a topic in mind should contact Ms. Baillie to discuss.

Regarding policy, Mr. Maley has done initial research on policies from other municipalities and organizations that might address the gaps. An initial list of possible policy recommendations is being developed and will be discussed with the community focus group.

The next LGBTQ+ focus group meeting will be held January 28, 2020.

Ms. Voigt asked about the housing event and suggested including the Association for Individual Development (AID) to address issues for people with disabilities. Ms. Sosa-Bachmeier will contact AID.

**Upcoming Events**

Ms. Voigt reported there are several upcoming events which may be of interest

- Martin Luther King Day of Service will be held Jan 28. There are many opportunities for volunteer service and more information is available on the City web site.
- Jan 26 Aurora Pride is holding a fundraiser for the 2020 activities on Jan 26.
- The African American Heritage Advisory board will hold its annual dinner on Feb 28.

Ms. Ramos asked about name badges for Commissioners. Vice-Chair Small noted that badges had previously been distributed but newer Commissioners may still need them. Commissioners should contact Ms. Voigt to request badges.

**Next Meeting**

Vice-Chair Small reminded Commissioners that the next meeting of the Commission will be February 13, 2020.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:15 pm.

_Respectfully submitted,_

_Ryan Maley_