

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2012

Members Present: Jordan Avery, Jeff Crosby, Pamela Freeman, Audrey Jimenez, Jake Keo, Laura McGaughey-Marquez, Jeanne McAuley, Mary Trahan, and Acting Chairman Robert Tucker.

Members Not Present: Thomas Sheehan, Jesse Warren, Jr., and Attorney Vincent Phelan.

Others Present: Councillor Hong Net, Councillor Daniel Cahill, Councillor Brendan Crighton, School Committeeman Charlie Gallo, and Terry Young.

Acting Chairman Tucker called the Meeting to Order. He informed members that Attorney Phelan had an illness in his family and would not be at the meeting.

Accept Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2012:

Acting Chairman Tucker asked for a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2012. Mary Trahan stated she had a question as to why her name was in the minutes regarding pre-discussions. Pam Freeman stated that she had questioned the process not in a negative manner. Mary Trahan stated that there were no pre-discussions. Pam Freeman stated that when the Board has the elections, we need to have a process. Again, she stated there was nothing negative in what she said.

Motion made by Jeanne McAuley and seconded by Pam Freeman to accept the Minutes of November 20, 2012.

Motion carried.

Robert Rules of Order:

Acting Chairman Tucker stated that the Board needed to accept Robert Rules of Order. He stated that the Commission does not have to be extremely formal, however, most bodies accept these rules.

Jeff Crosby stated that the Commission must use common sense at the meetings. They should be run informally, run simply, should not be complicated.

Motion made by Pam Freeman and seconded by Jordan Avery to accept Robert Rules of Order.

Motion carried.

Human Rights Commission / Website:

Acting Chairman Tucker stated that at the last meeting, he and Laura McGaughey-Marquez volunteered to work on creating a template for the website. After a brief discussion, Acting Chairman Tucker asked Terry Young to contact the Web Designer at City Hall and get a few dates for Bob and Laura to meet with him. Acting Chairman Tucker stated that the Commission needs to find out what Somerville and Cambridge have for a complaint form. Laura McGaughey-Marquez stated that the City of Lynn's should mirror Somerville and Cambridge. She stated that her and Bob can work on the website and in the

meantime put something on the website with general information and “coming soon...”. She said that we also need to get the word out to the community through the Chambers, the North Shore Latino Business Association, Libraries, and City Hall. Laura suggested putting the Board members on the website too. Acting Chairman Tucker stated that in January we will have a permanent Board with a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman.

Jeanne McAuley stated that if the City of Lynn was going to use printed documents designed by Somerville and Cambridge that they must be read carefully so that the information on the website is consistent with the City of Lynn’s ordinance.

Human Rights Commission / By-Laws:

Attorney Phelan was working on drafting the By-Laws for review by the Commission. Jeff Crosby asked why the police matters were excluded in the Ordinance. Acting Chairman Tucker explained the process in which the Human Rights Commission was created. He explained how Councilor-At-Large Hong Net proposed the Ordinance for a Human Rights Commission and worked with the Council, the Mayor, the Law Department and the Chief of Police. After several drafts and re-writes, the Council was comfortable with the Ordinance and it was voted on and passed. Acting Chairman Tucker reminded members that the police have their own internal investigation. Pam Freeman stated that Lynn must change and start doing things differently. Audrey Jimenez stated that maybe in the future we can add on the police matters. Laura McGaughey-Marquez stated that this Commission needs to evolve, and in the mean time, we will create a partnership with the Lynn Police Department. Jeff Crosby stated that the only exclusion is police matters. The City Council acted to get the Commission off the ground. We as a Board can revisit this matter at a later date. Jeanne McAuley stated that the City Council specified no police enforcement. There was probably a good reason. This Commission is a whole new entity for the City. She stated that she is comfortable right now with the police powers being omitted and feels the Commission is not equipped to handle subpoena powers at this time. We can’t jump into this at this early stage. Pam Freeman asked how Somerville and Cambridge got to their level? Acting Chairman Tucker stated that we must follow the ordinance and we cannot entertain police matters. He further stated that if the Board feels there should be changes to the ordinance, we can convey this to the City Council.

Other Business:

Laura McGaughey-Marquez asked for the status on the request to take a field trip to Somerville and observe a meeting as Attorney Phelan suggested. Acting Chairman Tucker stated that if members wanted to contact Somerville, they could contact them directly. Jeanne McAuley asked if the representative from Somerville could be invited to a meeting. Acting Chairman Tucker stated that Councilor Net had originally contacted the representative from Somerville, and Councilor Net said he would again give her a call. Audrey Jimenez stated that it would be good to speak to her to find out how Somerville’s Commission was started, if she had any pointers, and if they had police matters from the beginning. Pam Freeman stated that the Commission needed a Five Year Plan. Jeanne McAuley stated again that she thought it would be a good idea if we invite the Somerville representative to a meeting.

Mary Trahan asked what the Commission was going to expect for the By-Laws. Acting Chairman Tucker stated that Attorney Phelan was working on a draft and it would be ready for the next meeting.

Acting Chairman Tucker stated that the next meeting would be Tuesday, January 29, 2013.

Motion made by Jeff Crosby and seconded by Jordan Avery to adjourn.

Notice of this meeting was posted in the City Clerk's Office at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.

A True Copy Attest:

Theresa C. Young, Clerk