

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2013

Members Present: Jordan Avery, Audrey Jimenez, Laura McGaughey-Marquez, Jeanne McAuley, Attorney Vincent Phelan, Thomas Sheehan, Mary Trahan, Robert Tucker, and Jesse Warren, Jr.

Members Not Present: Jeff Crosby, Pamela Freeman, and Jake Keo.

Others Present: Terry Young

Acting Chairman Tucker called the meeting to Order and asked the Clerk to call the Roll.

Accept Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2012:

Motion made by Audrey Jimenez and seconded by Jordan Avery to accept the Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2012.

Motion carried.

Human Rights Commission / Website:

Acting Chairman Tucker asked the members if they received the link he sent them regarding the Human Rights Commission Website. After a lengthy discussion, **motion made by Mary Trahan and seconded by Tom Sheehan to officially go live and activate the Website once the members reviewed and forwarded their suggestions, corrections, and input to Terry Young to be forwarded the Webmaster.** Motion carried.

Human Rights Commission / By-Laws:

Acting Chairman Tucker stated that there had been some confusion regarding the By-Laws, and asked Attorney Phelan to clarify. Attorney Phelan stated that the By-Laws are within the Ordinance. The Human Rights Commission is not similar to other Boards (i.e., Licensing Commission). He stated that the By-Laws are the Ordinance. There are legal avenues to change the Ordinance, i.e., make a motion to amend the ordinance, etc. If members want to put something in the Ordinance, they can request the City Council to amend the Ordinance to give Board members additional avenues. Acting Chairman Tucker stated that he was happy that Attorney Phelan clarified that the By-Laws are the Ordinance, and that we can develop it as we go along. Jeanne McAuley stated that the Ordinance is very specific, and she thought By-Laws would be duplicates to the Ordinance. If necessary, we can develop By-Laws as we go along.

Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson:

Election of Chairperson:

Acting Chairman Tucker opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson. Motion made by Jordan Avery and seconded by Laura McGaughey-Marquez to nominate Robert Tucker. No other Nominations were put forth. Nominations Closed.

Jordan Avery	Robert Tucker	Thomas Sheehan	Robert Tucker
Audrey Jimenez	Robert Tucker	Mary Trahan	Robert Tucker
Laura McGaughey-Marquez	Robert Tucker	Robert Tucker	Robert Tucker
Jeanne McAuley	Robert Tucker	Jesse Warren, Jr.	Robert Tucker

Chairman Robert Tucker thanked Commissioners.

Election of Vice-Chairperson:

Acting Chairman Tucker opened the floor for nominations for Vice- Chairperson. Motion made by Jordan Avery and seconded by Mary Trahan to nominate Laura McGaughey-Marquez. No other Nominations were put forth. Nominations Closed.

Jordan Avery	Laura McGaughey-Marquez	Thomas Sheehan	Laura McGaughey-Marquez
Audrey Jimenez	Laura McGaughey-Marquez	Mary Trahan	Laura McGaughey-Marquez
Laura McGaughey-Marquez	Laura McGaughey-Marquez	Robert Tucker	Laura McGaughey-Marquez
Jeanne McAuley	Laura McGaughey-Marquez	Jesse Warren, Jr.	Laura McGaughey-Marquez

Vice-Chairperson Laura McGaughey-Marquez thanked the Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Tucker reviewed the 2013 Meeting Dates. After a brief discussion, it was voted that in lieu of the February 19th meeting, the Commissioners read and review the Ordinance and the website. As stated previously, Commissioners should forward their suggestions and/or corrections to Terry Young to be forwarded the Webmaster. The next meeting of the Human Rights Commission is scheduled for March 19, 2013.

Jordan Avery asked what happens if the Commission receives numerous complaints and how will the Commission address them all at once. Jeanne McAuley stated that within the Ordinance there is a section that creates a Review Committee that will be investigating the complaints and will try to resolve and/or refer to the appropriate agency. She also stated that the Commission should put on the complaint form that “ if this complaint is involved in litigation, the Commission would be prohibited from acting on it”. Attorney Phelan stated he would look into it.

Thomas Sheehan stated that he attended a Forum regarding immigration/immigration rights. He asked if the Commission could invite the speakers to a meeting as it might serve as an educational tool for the Commission. After a lengthy discussion, Laura McGaughey-Marquez stated that she was aware of this group, and she thought instead of them coming to speak, they would be a good resource to the Commission. Tom Sheehan said that he would like the group to do a short presentation regarding the Mass Trust Act. Attorney Phelan stated that having someone come in to speak educationally is fine,

however, it seems that these speakers will be speaking on one-side of a bill, and it would open it up for someone else to speak on the other side. If this is pending legislation, we don't want the Board to be viewed as political. After a lengthy discussion, motion made by Jordan Avery to table. Tom Sheehan stated that he would get more information for Attorney Phelan to review. He also said that he would amend his motion to invite some speakers, as an open invitation, to speak before the Commission. Chairman Tucker stated he has mentioned in the past that he thinks it's a great idea for members to meet with people outside the meeting time as our time is limited on Tuesday evenings. Audrey Jimenez stated that the immigration subject is worthy, however, it may only be 1% of our complaints. She further stated that if the organization had brochures, to forward them to the Commission. She agreed with Vice-Chairperson McGaughey-Marquez that the Commission can utilize them for educational and/or as a resource. Chairman Tucker asked Tom to put something together for March, educational rather than legality, not legislation. Thomas Sheehan stated he would look into it.

Audrey Jimenez asked Attorney Phelan where people went before the Human Rights Commission was established. Attorney Phelan stated that the Mayor's Office, the Lynn City Council, and his office would refer people to Neighborhood Legal Services, the Lynn Housing Authority, and the Lynn Housing Court.

Chairman Tucker stated that Attorney Phelan drafted a press release and that he wanted to edit it to add additional information to the press release. He said that he was also working on a pamphlet similar to Somerville's. Chairman Tucker stated that once the brochure was completed, the Commission could place them at various locations throughout the city. Laura McGaughey-Marquez suggested putting the brochures at the Courts. Jordan Avery suggested the Library. Chairman Tucker also suggested at City Hall in the Lobby and also said that the Commission can reach out to CMCC, the Latino, Russian, and Asian communities. Attorney Phelan stated that Girls, Inc. would be a good resource to have the brochures translated into the various languages (Khmer, Russian, Krio, etc.). Chairman Tucker stated that he hopes to have the brochure finalized for the next meeting.

Motion made by Jordan Avery and seconded by Tom Sheehan to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned.

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

