



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING APPROVED

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

DATE: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Urbana City Council Chambers
Urbana City Building
400 South Vine Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801
*Virtually Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stacie Burnett, Megan McKissack, Peter Resnick, Frances Rigberg, Julie Robinson Schaeffer.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rev. Florence Caplow

LATE ARRIVAL: Carol Bradford

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Chair Frances Rigberg called this meeting of the Urbana Human Relations Commission to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll was taken. A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Frances Rigberg called for a motion to approve the agenda. Peter Resnick moved to approve the agenda. Megan McKissack seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. **March 10, 2021**
- b. **March 18, 2021**

Megan McKissack made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2021 regular meeting and the March 18, 2021 special meeting. Julie Robinson Schaeffer seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Christopher Hansen shared his opinions about the posture of the Board and how they interface with the public.
- Rev. Doctor Evelyn Burnett Underwood shared her agreement with comments that Francis Rigberg made at the City Council meeting this week and emphasized the importance of listening and paying attention and standing up for what is right.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Review of HRC By-Laws**

Julie Robinson Schaeffer made a motion to approve the by-laws as presented. Peter Resnick seconded the motion.

Peter Resnick asked if the new title for the Officer (Human Rights and Equity Officer) had been changed in the ordinance yet. He suggested a friendly amendment to making a global change in the document to reflect that change from Human Relations Officer.

Julie Robinson Schaeffer suggested removing widow headers.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Housing Discrimination Regarding Prior Conviction

Peter Resnick introduced the topic of landlords and housing discrimination regarding prior conviction. Mr. Resnick presented evidence on how this is unlawful according to the City ordinance. His presentation is attached to the end of these meeting minutes. Mr. Resnick provided a draft letter that he suggested sending to landlords that the Commission knows have violated this ordinance. He also suggested eventually sending out a letter to all landlords in the City informing them of the ordinance and explaining why this discrimination is unlawful in the City of Urbana.

Peter Resnick made a motion that Commission members or staff or a combination thereof do a review of the list that was sent to get a list of landlords that are advertising or indicating on their application that an arrest or conviction record as a criteria and send a letter as has been submitted to those landlords. Julie Robinson Schaeffer seconded the motion.

Stacie Burnett suggested hosting a workshop or seminar to address questions landlords may have. Mr. Resnick said that will likely be necessary whenever the Commission sends the more general letter to all landlords. However, for this first letter targeting a specific issue and a specific number of landlords it likely isn't necessary.

Carol Burnett spoke about how happy she is to see this issue come up and that the Commission is moving forward on it.

Julie Robinson Schaeffer suggested putting a reference in the letter to the City code so landlords can easily find the resource.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

b. EEO Workforce Statistics

- **Bailey Edward Design**
- **Electronic Data Collection**
- **Foth Infrastructure & Environment**
- **Fuhrmann Engineering**
- **GHR Enginneers and Associates**
- **GROWMARK**
- **Lochmueller Group**
- **The Roderick Group**

The EEO Workforce Statistics applications were reviewed. Stacie Barnett made a motion to approve the applications. Megan McKissack seconded the motion. Carol Bradford made a friendly amendment to the motion to approve the following:

- Bailey Edward Design – 2 years
- The Roderick Group – 2 years
- Electronic Data Collection – 1 year
- Foth Infrastructure & Environment – 1 year

- Fuhrmann Engineering – 1 year
- GHR Enginneers and Associates – 1 year
- GROWMARK – 1 year
- Lochmueller Group – 1 year

The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

c. Staff Report

Elizabeth Hannan gave an update on the timeline for hiring a new Human Rights and Equity Officer. Ms. Hannan also reviewed contacts received regarding discrimination issues

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peter Resnick announced that next week the U of I YWCA is doing a series of presentations called Racism is a Public Health Crisis as a part of their Stand against Racism program. More information can be found at YWCAUofI.org.

Carol Bradford asked if Lemond Peppers, the City of Urbana's new Community Engagement Coordinator had been invited to attend an HRC meeting to share his goals and plans for the future. Chair Frances Rigberg said that he had attended a meeting, but agreed that more appearances would be a good idea.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Frances Rigberg declared the meeting to be adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tamra Jane Corbin
Recording Secretary