



Human Relations Commission

Minutes

June 16, 2020 6:30 P.M.

via Teleconference

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Members present: Sharveta Parker, Matt Weiss, McKenzie Edmonds, Deba Briscoe, Maria Van Hoorn, Sarah Spencer, Jesse Dercks, and Julia Appel

Members not present: Mira Lee Prabhu,

Others present: Assistant Village Manager Tyler Burkart, SSD Director of Equity Sam Coleman, State Representative David Bowen, State Senator Lena Taylor, School Board Member Clarke Warren, School Board Member Paru Shah, Trustee Arthur Ircink, Trustee Wesley Warren, Trustee Kathy Stokebrand, Trustee Tammy Bockhorst, Lt. Tom Liebenthal

Ms. Parker summarized the meeting guidelines for all those on the call.

2. Consider Approval of June 4, 2020 minutes

Ms. Briscoe moved to approve the June 4, 2020 minutes. Motion seconded by Ms. Spencer. Motion approved by a 7-0 vote.

3. Discuss coordination of community forum on race, equity, diversity and inclusion

Representative David Bowen asked some people to begin the discussion. Student Alemitu Caldart read a poem to express the thoughts and feelings behind the Black Lives Matter movement in preparation of discussing the purpose of a community forum. Student Eric Lucas III shared some of his thoughts as well as read a poem to express his feelings. Stephanie Roades with Showing Up for Racial Justice spoke to share their mission and resources available such as bystander intervention training or discussions involving white fragility. Sam Coleman shared his professional and personal role in Shorewood and the Milwaukee metropolitan community. Shorewood resident Shavonda Sisson shared her experiences about being a new resident in this community. Natraj Shanker shared his story and encounters with discrimination and ways the community can come together. There was some discussion about individuals being tolerated versus being accepted. Senator Lena Taylor built upon this discussion by sharing her thoughts in regards to the Black community being accepted in society and the impact of the Police in this acceptance. Trustee Warren provided his support as the Trustee liaison for the Commission. Norma Duckworth shared her story about while she was a resident in Shorewood and faced discrimination and the need for accountability and legislation to address these issues. There were comments related about the experience needed of those to be front and center to help lead these discussions. In addition, Ms. Duckworth shared

a story of a resident who feared living in their own home, had nowhere to go for support, and as a result lived in a hotel. It was also mentioned how there is no law about being racist which has impacted the Police Department's response to specific incidents. There was the desire to get action on paper and not just talking about the issues. Trustee Stokebrand mentioned her support for the Black Lives Matter movement and denouncing racism. Trustee Bockhorst expressed her desire to allow the Commission to lead on this movement as they have her full support.

There was brief discussion about how to go about setting up the community forum. Mr. Burkart mentioned another planning meeting could happen next week on June 24 so that we can plan for a community forum to take place the week of July 13-17. Clarke Warren suggested checking the availability of those who spoke earlier today to see what time would work. Senator Taylor also mentioned weekend dates may allow better access for families to participate. Another idea was to have a Black psychologist join the forum to discuss the psychological impact of discrimination and to provide support for those in attendance. Senator Taylor suggested Dr. Joy DeGruy as a potential resource for community members. Shorewood resident Diane Eisen connected with the 4 C's downtown discussed about her background in early childhood and how to incorporate learning and literature opportunities for the youth.

4. Future Agenda Items and Speakers

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 24 at 6:30 p.m.

5. Adjournment

Ms. Spencer moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Briscoe. Motion approved by 8-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tyler Burkart,
Assistant Village Manager