



Human Relations Commission

Minutes

October 2, 2019 6:30 P.M.

Village Center

3930 N. Murray Avenue, Shorewood, WI 53211

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

Members present: Sharveta Parker, Deba Briscoe, Matt Weiss, McKenzie Edmonds, Sarah Spencer, Gladys Mitchell-Walthour (arrived at 6:35 p.m.), Jesse Dercks, and Julia Appel

Members not present: Mira Lee Prabhu

Others present: Assistant Village Manager Tyler Burkart, Trustee Davida Amenta, Director of Equity Sam Coleman, Charlie Desando, Lt. Thomas Liebenthal, Tr. Wesley Warren

2. Consider Approval of September 11, 2019 minutes

Ms. Edmonds moved to approve the September 11, 2019 minutes. Motion seconded by Ms. Briscoe. Motion approved by a 7-0 vote.

3. Public Comments

Ms. Mitchell-Walthour mentioned there is a similar group with Wauwatosa and that she'd be happy to invite them to a future meeting. Ms. Briscoe provided a summary on their efforts at the Farmers Market. The Commission may consider approaching businesses and groups individually rather than attending events for public engagement.

4. Discuss Observations in the Community

Milwaukee Film Festival will be on October 17. On the Table will be October 10. Ms. Appel will be performing more efforts to recruit high school students to attend.

5. Staff Liaison Updates

Mr. Burkart informed the Commission the Board approved the ordinance language to allow student members the ability to vote. The Village Board is in the process of deliberating on the 2020 budget, which includes funds for diversity-related trainings for Village staff, officials, and volunteer committee members. Mr. Burkart reminded the Commission that there will be some changes to meeting structure moving forward. This includes one-hour business meetings every month. The business meetings will be followed up by subcommittee meetings. Action items will always be placed on the agenda so that each subcommittee has a task to complete prior to the next meeting. The Commission must conclude by 8:00 p.m. tonight.

6. Consider recommendation on Signs, Objects, and Communicative Structures on Public Property or in the Right of Way

Mr. Burkart provided an introduction on the process thus far and the letter drafted by Ms. Appel and Ms. Prabhu. Mr. Burkart is asking the Commission to focus on the letter

which summarizes the policy position of the HRC. The letter, if approved, would go to the Village Board to accept the policy position and decide how to proceed. Mr. Burkart also shared Attorney's Bayer's opinion, which makes the holiday decorations much broader to encompass. The Commission reviewed the letter and made proposed changes. Changes include further defining items seasonal in nature and making language more general so it just doesn't relate to holiday decorations. Several members of the public were in attendance, mostly expressing their desire for the policy to appropriately separate the difference between church and state. Other comments from the public indicated the difficulty in communicating this policy to the public with them not fully understanding the difference between public and private property. Ms. Parker moves to adopt the policy position in regards to decorations on public property with the edits discussed. Ms. Edmonds seconded the motion. Motion approved 8-0. Members of the Commission will try to be in attendance for the October 7 and 21 Village Board meetings.

7. Consider nominations and selection of Chair and Vice Chair

The Commission annually needs to nominate and select a chair and vice chair. Mr. Dercks nominated Ms. Parker. Ms. Briscoe moved, seconded by Ms. Appel to elect Ms. Parker as chair. Motion approved 8-0. Ms. Parker nominated Mr. Dercks to serve as the Vice Chair. Mr. Weiss moved, seconded by Ms. Mitchell-Walthour to elect Mr. Dercks as the Vice Chair. Motion approved 8-0.

8. Discuss Future Data and Research to be completed by the Data Sub-Committee

Tr. Amenta mentioned the transportation and parking analysis would be completed soon and that the data sub-committee may be interested in reviewing the study. Mr. Dercks shared some of his thoughts related to municipal violations. Mr. Burkart will take a look to see if parking violations are broken down based on demographics.

9. Discuss Action Items for November

Education – Start a forum with Shorewood Moving Forward, HRC, and School District along with other community groups. A specific plan will be presented in November.
Policy – Attend the Board meetings in October. Brainstorm upcoming policy review and ideas and bring ideas to the November meeting.
Data – Analyze the community survey results, specific to transportation and parking information.

10. Future Agenda Topics and Speakers

No future agenda topics. Next meeting is November 14.

11. Adjournment

Ms. Edmonds moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Weiss. Motion approved by 8-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tyler Burkart
Assistant Village Manager