

Minutes
February 9th, 2022

Commissioners Present:

Kathryn Cobb-Holmes
Karima (Karen) Archie
Stacey Taylor
Richard Wagner
Lisa Blount
Zelda Yoder

Commissioners Absent:

Valerie Phelps-Robinson

Guest:

Barbara Coffin

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. By Commissioner Yoder. The minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Wagner/Commissioner Archie second. Minutes were approved.

Executive Director's Report

I participated in a meeting with the Reading Hospital about a system called Healthsify. It's a referral system they set up.

I was participating in a group discussion with the league of women voters regarding housing accessibility. I will not be participating in the group any further.

City hall reopened to the public January 31st.

The E.D. is attending a virtual leadership training given by the EEOC. The course is once a week for 20 weeks.

There were no employment or housing intakes completed. Two employment intakes were scheduled but the complainants did not show up.

The E.D.'s report was moved for approval. Commissioner Wagner moved/Commissioner Yoder second. The E.D.'s report was approved.

Old Business:

Commissioner Wagner wanted an update on the ARP plan and money. The city is still in meetings. It seems that the administration is not interested in investing in building a shelter. However, the city may be funding mobile showers, mobile food trucks, safe parking lots, warming centers.

Commissioner Yoder's husband agreed to provide training for Commissioners.

A date (2/25 at 10 a.m.) was set with Commissioner's Cobb-Holmes, Yoder and Archie to meet and discuss the ordinance. The E.D. will reserve the 3rd floor conference room for the meeting.

New Business

Commissioners held a discussion about their concerns regarding rent prices and rent availability within the city.

Good & Welfare

Commissioner Wagner reports that Reading Pride celebration will be held at Jim Dietrich Park this year. The date is July 17th.

Commissioner Archie reports that Berks Democratic Women are having a celebration of black history month on February 17th from 6:30 - 8 p.m. \$10 non-members/must RSVP. A flyer was sent out.

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes reports that there is a job fair at the Ed center on Rt. 61. The event is scheduled for 2/21 from 10-2.

Commissioner Yoder reviewed updates regarding voting and state Supreme Court decision. The primary election is an important one scheduled for May 17th but it may be moved. The new calendar hasn't been established.

The E.D. forwarded a flyer from the LGBT center about warm Wednesday in which they provide a warm meal from 5-7 p.m. on 2/16th (every 3rd Wednesday of the month).

Commissioner Yoder reviewed the event that Mayor Moran was

Commissioner Blount and Archie discussed Anthony Jack will be at Albright (main chapel) at 4 p.m. to discuss his book "Poor privilege".

Training

PHRC has an event scheduled to celebrate MLK Jr. I will forward the flyer to Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.