

Minutes
March 9th, 2022

Commissioners Present:

Kathryn Cobb-Holmes
Karima (Karen) Archie
Richard Wagner
Zelda Yoder
Valerie Phelps-Robinson

Commissioners Absent:

Stacey Taylor
Lisa Blount

Council Liaison:

Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz

Staff

Kimberly Talbot

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. By Commissioner Cobb-Holmes. The minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Yoder requested that an incomplete & inaccurate sentence be removed under Good & Welfare. Commissioner Archie moved with corrections. Commissioner Yoder second. Minutes were approved.

Executive Director's Report

The city is requesting proposals/projects that could be funded by ARP money. The proposals should be sent to the managing director's office.

Masks are no longer required in city hall and in person meetings can resume.

Old Business- the E.D. went thru the ordinance with both Commissioner Yoder & Archie. Commissioner Yoder requested additional information be provided in my monthly commission report.

There were 3 EEOC inquiries. These are people who discussed a discriminatory event but did not want to move forward.

There were 2 housing inquiries. Nilda completed 1 EEOC intake and 1 intake 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 Yoder's husband is willing to do a training for Commissioners. The training should occur before our summer break if possible. Commissioners want the E.D. to come up with a potential list of topics that can be discussed and/or reviewed.

New Business

Commissioners decided that after our summer break we will meet in person for September's meeting.

The E.D. asked the Commissioners to volunteer in shifts for Pride in July.

Johanny suggested to get on the agenda of a Youth Commission meeting. It may be an opportunity for a partnership.

Michelle Smith in city clerk's office is familiar with the schedule of meetings.

The E.D. informed the Commissioners of a new resource for water called LIHWAP. I have been sending out applications for RAWA. The contact number is 1-877 395 8930.

Good & Welfare

Pride will be at Jim Dietrich Park. The park opens at 11 a.m.

Berks Democratic Women is celebrating National Women's month by sponsoring an event on March 17th from 6:30 – 8.

Commissioner Archie will supply the flyer that will be forwarded to the rest of the group.

Councilwoman Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz is running for the 129th district seat. There is an event at the Women's club of Reading on Saturday March 12th.

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes reports that Tower Health received funding to help mothers that are suffering substance abuse while pregnant. The contact person is Karen Kohler. The goal is to train the doctors.

Commissioner Yoder informed the group that on March 10th from 6-8 p.m. there will be a signing event for statewide candidates (Governor, Lt. Governor, Senator, US Congress) at Canal Street Pub. Registered democrats who haven't signed statewide candidate petitions are welcome.

Training

There will be training for Commissioners on May 17th & 18th. The training is given by the EEOC and will be virtual. The FEPA conference is scheduled for July 19 – 21st. Once the agenda is distributed, I will forward to Commissioners.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 13 at 6 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.