

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2021

Commissioners Present:

Katherine Cobb-Holmes
Stacey Taylor
Zelda Yoder
Karima (Karen) Archie
Richard T. Wagner
Barbara Coffin
Valerie Phelps-Robinson
Lisa Blount

Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Kimberly Talbot

Guest

None

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. The minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Wagner moved and Commissioner Coffin seconded. The minutes were approved.

Executive Director's report

The E.D. is scheduled to give a report to city council on June 28th about the activities & programs of the RHRC. The E. D. requested the board discuss and vote on the annual ESG grant request. The grant request is \$32,500.00. Commissioner Yoder made a motion to allow the E. D. to apply for the ESG grant. Commissioner Coffin seconded. Motion granted.

The E.D. provided a flyer about the upcoming landlord tenant clinic scheduled for June 23, 2021.

Commissioner Wagner moved to accept the E.D.'s report. Commissioner Archie seconded. Motion granted.

Old Business:

Commissioner Taylor discussed the upcoming Juneteenth events. It is on Facebook. Mr. Butler is posting the various black owned businesses.

-June 17th is a fundraiser benefitting the Ronald E. Smith banquet. Purchase a dinner for \$20. There will be prizes. Tickets are 1 for \$2 or 3 for \$5.

June 18th the city will raise the flag between 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.. June 19th is the community family barbeque from 12-6. There will also be a mobile glass blowing station put on by the Goggleworks. June 20th is the church service and prayer walk to pray for victims of gun violence. Various Father's from the community will also be recognized.

-Juneteenth partnered with the Newton Family for a cultural book drive

New Business:

Commissioner Coffin wanted to discuss out of town investor's buying up rentals and the current effect in the city of Reading. Commissioner Coffin also said that Section 8 is accepted in Kutztown housing (Briar Cliff) for those individuals with transportation.

Commissioners also discussed the issue of affordable housing and what is currently available, being build and issues with rooming houses.

Commissioner Blount discussed two properties that are on Buttonwood Street that are being built as examples of affordable housing.

Commissioner Taylor wants to have a strategic planning meeting with the District Judges, property managers and realtors to express concerns about the conditions of the properties, the plan for upkeep and the penalty process of fines.

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes reports that the BCIU is holding a job fair from 10 – 2 on June 24th.

Commissioner Archie reports that a celebration of life will occur on June 19th from 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Training:

The EEOC has scheduled the annual conference from July 19th – 21st. Once the registration information is disseminated, the E.D. will forward to Commissioners.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 14th, 2021