

City of Reading Human Relations Commission

March 11, 2020

MINUTES

Commissioners Present:

Karima (Karen) Archie
Lisa Blount
Kathryn Cobb-Holmes, Chair
Barbara Coffin
Valerie Phelps-Robinson
Stacey Taylor (via telephone)
Richard Wagner

Absent

Valerie Phelps-Robinson
Zelda Yoder

Staff

Kimberly Talbot

Guest

None

The meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m. The minutes were reviewed. The date for the minutes and the next meeting was wrong. Commissioner Wagner moved with corrections. Commissioner Coffin seconded. The minutes were approved with corrections.

Executive Director's Report

The office has a new intern (Ricardo) and he will do 30 hours per week until April 3Rd. The office has several outreach events scheduled at the Salvation Army. The E.D. requested dates from the Commissioners for an EEOC training to occur on a Saturday. The E.D. discussed the request from the Berks County Advisory Commission to meet with RHRC. The meeting has been tentatively scheduled for March 31st. All Commissioners who can will be present during the meeting. The E.D. reminded the Commissioners that an election needs to occur soon. Commissioner Wagner moved. Commissioner Archie seconded. The E.D.'s report was approved.

Old Business:

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes wanted to know if all the other Commissioners received their ethics paperwork. All confirmed that they did. Commissioner Wagner wanted to remind us about Reading Pride's Meet & Greet at the Stirling scheduled for March 31st at 6 p.m. Commissioner Cobb-Holmes reports that the Reading Public library event was very successful.

New Business

Commissioner Wagner handed out a new Reading Pride newsletter. The E.D. had written an article which was in this edition.

The other events Commissioner Wagner reported on are as follows:

- April 15th-“Strong Enough” photo shoot at the Pagoda
- April 19th-Adult Easter egg hunt scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.
- May 15th-Dinner at the Stirling. Tickets are \$50.00. There will be entertainment and a silent auction.

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes reports that the BCIU will hold open enrollment on March 26th from 3-5 at the ROC for Migrant children only. In addition, every Monday in April and the 2nd & 4th Fridays, open enrollment will be held from 3-5 at 206 S. 6th Avenue.

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes provided several employment opportunities;

- Boscov's distribution center is hiring on the spot. They need full time workers for all shifts. It is a felon friendly employer.

- Dominos Pizza on 5th Street highway is hiring as well.
- Census workers are needed

Commissioner Taylor reports that NAACP has 3 financial workshops scheduled

- Workshop #1 scheduled for March 18th from 10-12 at Queen City on Mortgages & Credit
- Workshop #2 scheduled for March 21st from 12-2 at the Grill & Chill on entrepreneurship
- Workshop #3 scheduled for March 27th from 4-6 at Berks Community Foundation on Investment & legacy planning

April 25th is a pancake breakfast at Applebee's from 8-11. Tickets are \$8. The Commissioners agreed to make this a group activity and will meet at 9 a.m.

Also on April 25th there is a Pardon & Clemency workshop from 1-3 at the Elks.

Training and Conferences:

None scheduled at this time.

Next meeting scheduled for April 8, 2020