



**MINUTES**  
**HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, February 17, 2016 – Council Conference Rm**

1. **Call to Order** – Present: David Dove, Cynthia Flores, Chris Givan (Chair), Paula Hopkins, J.W. Martin, Olivia Martinez, Linda Perrin, Natasha Russell, Mike Sullivan and Meryl Dye (staff liaison).
2. **Oral Communications from the Audience** – Councilmember Steve Dechant was welcomed as an audience member. He said he has been visiting various City boards to learn more of what they do.
3. **Minutes** – Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2016. Dove seconded the motion and the motion passed.
4. **Reports** – Dye shared an attendance report. There were no informal complaints for January, 2016.
5. **Review of HHRC Goals** – Givan reported on a meeting with Mayor Jade Piros De Carvalho, John Deardoff and Meryl Dye on February 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss how to proceed in making a request to the City Council for the reinstatement of the Human Relations Officer position. He said information was shared on the number of complaints over the years, activities of the HHRC, and staffing found in other Kansas cities with human relations commissions. He said there was no support from the Mayor for a full-time position, but some discussion of whether a part-time position could be justified to the City Council based on the information. HHRC members then discussed what needs to be done to make the case to the City Council. Sullivan suggested proceeding with the goals adopted earlier to build support and trust in the community so people will come forward with complaints and the numbers will show the need for staff. Steve Dechant said based on what he's heard from this meeting he was not convinced of the need for staff, and agreed with Sullivan's suggestion. Following discussion, Givan said he will work on a draft letter to the City Council to bring back to the HHRC and asked members to work on 3 to 5 key things they believe needs to be included in a message for the community.

Members discussed the former Community Resource Council, and several said they don't believe it has functioned for several years. HHRC members agreed this would be a good way to have visibility in the community and connect with other organizations. Russell made a motion to restart the Community Resource Council. Martinez seconded the motion and the motion passed.

6. **New Business** – None.
7. **Communications** – Dye said the Women Fair on April 23<sup>rd</sup> provides an opportunity for the HHRC to make their presence know. HHRC members willing to head up a booth or table should contact Dye for information to get involved.
8. **Adjournment** – Martinez made a motion to adjourn, and Flores seconded the motion for adjournment.

Minutes Prepared by Meryl Dye, Assistant City Manager (Staff Liaison)

**Next Meeting – March 16, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Conf. Room**