



MINUTES
HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, March 16, 2016 – Council Conference Rm

1. **Call to Order** – Present: David Dove, Chris Givan (Chair), J.W. Martin, Olivia Martinez, Linda Perrin, Natasha Russell, Mike Sullivan and Meryl Dye (staff liaison). Absent: Cynthia Flores and Paula Hopkins.
2. **Oral Communications from the Audience** – Hutchinson NAACP Chapter members Darrell Pope and Don Legg were welcomed as audience members.
3. **Minutes** – Russell made a motion to approve the minutes of February 17, 2016. Dove seconded the motion and the motion passed.
4. **Reports** – Dye shared an attendance report. There were no informal complaints for February, 2016. Dye said the March report will show at least one informal contact from an African American male in his 60's who was terminated from his job of 35+ years for breaching employee confidentiality, which he denies. Dye assisted the Complainant in filing a race, sex, and age complaint with the Kansas Human Rights Commission.
5. **Review of HHRC Goals** – Givan shared a draft letter to the Governing Body requesting **reinstatement of the Human Relations Officer** position. There was much discussion about what information to include in this request. Also, there was discussion about past efforts to gain enforcement powers in the local ordinance. HHRC members agreed they wish to retain the enforcement procedures outline in the current ordinance. They also will continue show a presence in the community to build support and trust. Givan will bring back a final draft for HHRC approval during the April 20th Meeting.

Dye reported that the **Reno County Resource Council** is still active and is coordinated by First Call for Help director Kathy Davis. The group meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday at noon in the auditorium of the Public Library. Several HHRC members plan to attend the next meeting on March 22nd.

6. **New Business** – Dye said a new group has formed under Hutchinson Community Foundation called **Community Connect**. The group will meet quarterly over lunch to hear presentations on professional and organizational development. The HHRC has been invited to attend.

Perrin looked into a booth at the upcoming **Hutchinson Women's Show and Family Health Fair** scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd at the Sunflower Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Dye will process the entry fee for the HHRC. Linda Perrin, Chris Givan, J.W. Martin and David Dove agreed to staff the booth throughout the event from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Olivia Martinez will visit **Cinco de Mayo** coordinators about HHRC participation. HHRC volunteers are needed for a booth the first weekend in May.

Chris Givan will represent the HHRC on April 5th at the Hutchinson City Council meeting to receive a **Fair Housing Proclamation**. April is National Fair Housing Month.

7. **Communications** – There were no other comments.
8. **Adjournment** – Sullivan made a motion to adjourn, and Perrin seconded the motion for adjournment.

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

Next Meeting – April 20, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Conf. Room