



MINUTES
HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, June 15, 2016 – Council Conference Rm

1. **Call to Order** – Present: David Dove, Cynthia Flores, Chris Givan (Chair), Paula Hopkins, J.W. Martin, Jr., Olivia Martinez, Natasha Russell, Mike Sullivan and Meryl Dye (staff liaison). Absent: Linda Perrin.
2. **Oral Communications from the Audience** – No audience.
3. **Minutes** – Russell made a motion to approve the minutes of May 18, 2016. Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed.
4. **Reports** – Dye shared an attendance report. A correction is needed to show J.W. Martin as absent in May. There were two (2) informal complaints in May. Dye said she revised the format of the narrative report summary to show the description for each complaint made in the year rather than just a monthly report. Three (3) informal complaints have been received through May of 2016.
5. **Unfinished Business** –
 - **Letter to City Council for HHRC Staffing** - Givan said he plans to attend the City Council’s budget study session scheduled for 8 a.m. on June 16th. Dye said City Manager John Deardoff has once again provided to the City Council copies of the HHRC’s staffing request letter and the letter from Mike Sullivan. She distributed an updated summary of HHRC activities since the HR Officer position was eliminated. Givan said the number of cases from Hutchinson handled by KS Human Rights Commission is on their website under “publications” in their annual reports. Flores said she contacted former HR Officer Lila Fritschen for input on reasons to reinstate the position. She said Fritschen responded with twelve reasons to reinstate the job, which Flores shared with the HHRC.
 - **Monthly Meeting with Law Enforcement** – Flores reported that she attended the last meeting with local law enforcement. She said only five people attended, but there was more discussion about formalizing the group. She said they want a steady attendance first. The next meeting is scheduled for July 11th at 2:30 due to the holiday.
6. **New Business** – none.
7. **Communications** – Hopkins said she is resigning from the HHRC effective today. She shared her resignation letter and discussed her reasons. She said she believes the group should share diverse opinions within the meetings, but once a decision is made all members of the team should endorse the decision. Citing the work of Patrick Lencioni on team work, Hopkins said she aligns herself with Lencioni’s team model and has decided she is on the wrong team. Therefore, she believes she must resign. Several members agreed that differences of opinion should be shared within the group, and expressed disappointment that this was not done during the vote to request staffing and said it gives the appearance of not supporting the human relations

ordinance. Members thanked Hopkins for her time on the Commission, and she left the meeting.

Further discussion ensued about the future of the group if the staff position is not reinstated. Concerns were expressed about how much impact the HHRC can have within the community given their own limits as volunteers. Martin suggested taking up the discussion once it is known whether the City Council will budget for the staff position. He offered a motion to table the discussion. Dye said a motion was not needed.

8. **Adjournment** – Dove made a motion to adjourn, and Martinez seconded the motion for adjournment.

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

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