



MINUTES
HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, July 20, 2016 – Council Conference Rm

1. **Call to Order** – Present: David Dove, J.W. Martin, Jr., Olivia Martinez, Natasha Russell, Mike Sullivan (V. Chair) and Meryl Dye (staff liaison). Absent: Chris Givan (Chair) and Cynthia Flores. Dye reported that Linda Perrin has resigned.
2. **Oral Communications from the Audience** – No audience.
3. **Minutes** – Russell made a motion to approve the minutes of June 15, 2016. Dove seconded the motion and the motion passed.
4. **Reports** – Dye shared an attendance report. There are two vacancies with the resignations of Paula Hopkins and Linda Perrin. HHRC members reviewed and had questions about a summary report of informal complaints describing two (2) reports received in June.
5. **Unfinished Business** – Dye said the City Council will hold a public hearing on August 2nd for the 2017 budget which does not include funding for the HHRC staffing request. Discussion was had regarding the continuance of work by the HHRC. Dye said in a meeting with City Manager John Deardoff and City Attorney Paul Brown, she learned from the city attorney that for the board to no longer convene the human relations ordinance would need to be repealed. She said it is not likely the City Council would repeal the ordinance without a recommendation from the HHRC. There was discussion on whether to revise the ordinance to expand the role of the HHRC. Russell expressed concern that repealing the ordinance would make a negative statement about the community's commitment to civil rights and what happens in a community without such a policy. She urged the HHRC to find ways to continue its work, suggesting a partnership with other civil rights agencies such as the community relations services division of the Department of Justice. Martinez said the meeting last evening on police-community relations at Shears Technology Center was a start in building positive race relations that the HHRC should be involved. She also urged the group to be more involved in community events and look for ways to be a visible sponsor. Dove agreed there is still work to do in building understanding and acceptance among all the diverse groups of our community. Sullivan said he wants to revisit the objectives that were in the planning stages before the staffing request was submitted. He asked Dye to redistribute materials that were generated from the most recent goal setting session with Lynette Lacey. He suggested the HHRC study and work on these goals again in August.
6. **New Business** – none.
7. **Communications** – Dye provided fliers on the **Comprehensive Plan** discussion at the Atrium from 6-8 p.m. on July 28th, the **Emancipation Day Celebration** from August 4-7, and **Spaces to Places** workshops at the Cosmosphere on August 18-20.
8. **Adjournment** – Martinez made a motion to adjourn, and Russell seconded the motion for adjournment.

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

Next Meeting – August 17, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Conf. Room