



MINUTES
HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 16, 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).
2. **Oral Communications from the Audience** – None.
3. **Minutes** – Russell made a motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2016. Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed.
4. **Introduction of Applicants for HHRC Vacancies** - Dye reported there are 4 vacancies, and Mike Sullivan's term expired in September. Sullivan wishes to be reappointed. HHRC applicants **Sue Wray** and **Rick Limon** were introduced. Sue grew up here, attended high school in Nickerson and also attended HCC. She then moved to Oklahoma City, and recently moved back to Hutchinson. She is employed as the Communications Director for Hutchinson Regional Hospital. She has worked as a reporter and in communications. She has worked with groups in human rights in both a professional and volunteer capacity. She was communications director for the Muhammad Ali Center and a board member of the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage in Louisville, KY. She is looking to volunteer in areas that have impact on the community, and her employer is supportive of her volunteer time. Rick Limon moved to Hutchinson about a year ago. His wife works at Morgan school, and they have four children. Rick is employed with Mid-Kansas Coop in McPherson. In other communities, Rick has served on the school board, the Chamber of Commerce board and the Economic Development Board. He wants to give volunteer time in the community.

Applicants asked about the status of the HHRC. Members discussed how the Commission has functioned over recent years without a human relations director. Russell said since staffing was denied by the City Council earlier this year, members are needing to consider activities to take on as volunteers. Discussion was had about the powers of the HHRC in the human relations ordinance. Limon asked whether there is consideration to disband the Commission. Dye said an ordinance to repeal the human relations ordinance would be needed to disband the group, but the City Council has given no indication of doing such. Martinez is not willing to suggest a repeal. Dove said he believes the HHRC just needs to add activities that will help raise awareness of discrimination problems and let people know there is help.

Sue Wray indicated that she is still interested in serving on the HHRC. Martinez made a motion to recommend Sue Wray for appointment. Dove seconded the motion and the motion passed. Russell made a motion to recommend Rick Limon. But Limon said that, while he appreciates the energy of the group, he wants more time to consider. There was no second to the motion. Martin suggested recommending Limon in December if he is interested.

5. **Unfinished Business** – Dye provided handouts on a training program entitled **Transforming White Privilege**, a 2-day program with 20 modules that include group discussions, articles,

videos, surveys and evaluation tools. Cost for the program is in tiers with a government rate of \$500. An on-site trainer is provided. Also a handout was provided on the **Faces of America**, a theater presentation for social change by Will & Company. Faces of America was presented at HCC a few years ago when the HHRC along with several other community groups partnered with the college and Tyson Foods on the sponsorship. The theater presentation covered 3 days and was well attended by the community. Dye asked members to go online to review both resources more closely. Russell agreed to talk with Rev. Robin Givens to see if there is a role for the HHRC in diversity training that she is providing to local law enforcement.

6. There was no other business.
7. **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 – December 21, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Conf. Room