



MINUTES
HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, January 17, 2018 – Council Conference Room

1. **Call to Order** – Present: Joe Allen, Jerome Kahn, Olivia Martinez, Natasha Russell-Iverson, Mike Sullivan and Sue Wray. Meryl Dye (Staff Liaison) was also present. Absent: David Dove (Chair) and Carrie Myer. (One vacancy.)
2. **Oral Communications by Audience** – Miriam Kitson and Rebecca Shetler of Hutch in Harmony were introduced and welcomed.
3. **Minutes** – Russell-Iverson asked to amend the minutes for December 20, 2017 to strike the sentence regarding the Black Candle video under Communications and Comments. Kahn made a motion to approve the December 20, 2017 minutes as amended. Martinez seconded the motion and the motion passed.
4. **Consideration of HHRC Applicant** – Kalene Nisly has applied for the vacancy. She has an appointment but will be at the meeting by 4:45 p.m. for an interview.
5. **Reports** – The attendance and informal complaint reports were provided. There were no informal complaints in December. Dye provided the full narrative report for 2017. There was a total four (4) informal complaints in 2017.
6. **Unfinished Business** –Dye updated Miriam Kitson and Rebecca Shetler of Hutch in Harmony on the HHRC’s efforts since last August to hold community conversations and a public viewing the “Walking While Black” video. It was agreed last month to invite both women to the meeting to explore ways to collaborate. Kitson and Shetler described their community involvement and desire to reach out to people who are hurting from discrimination. In addition to the candlelight vigil in George Pyle Park, they have started a book club and a weekly blog called *Story Saturday* sharing interviews with local people to give a voice to people not comfortable in speaking up. They also helped recently with a discussion on LGBT issues and participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. They have started discussion with Dr. Parson about holding a panel discussion on race relations sometime in February or March. It was agreed to bring the groups together for joint planning. Russell-Iverson, Allen, Wray and Dye will meet with Kitson and Shetler. Kitson suggested inviting Dr. Parson and Darrell Pope, and Martinez asked that Cynthia Flores also be invited. Dye will send a meeting invitation for January 31st at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall.
7. **HHRC Applicant Consideration** – Kalen Nisly joined the meeting and introduced herself to HHRC members. She resides in Hutchinson and is finishing her degree in social work at Kansas University. She interns at Horizons Mental Health, and has worked as a job placement coach and on a project involving refugee resettlement. Kahn made a motion to recommend Kalene’s appointment to the Mayor. Russell-Iverson seconded the motion which passed.
8. There was no other new business or communications.
9. **Adjournment** – Kahn made a motion to adjourn. Sullivan seconded the motion that passed.

Minutes prepared by Meryl Dye, Staff Liaison.

NOTICE: Next regular HHRC meeting is February 21, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room
A quorum of HHRC members may be expected at a planning meeting at 4:00 p.m. on January 31st in the Council Conference Room.