



**AGENDA**  
**HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018 – 4:00 PM**  
**COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM – CITY HALL**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

\_\_\_ Joe Allen \_\_\_ David Dove\* \_\_\_ Jerome Kahn \_\_\_ Olivia Martinez

\_\_\_ Carrie Myer \_\_\_ Kalene Nisly \_\_\_ Natasha Russell-Iverson \_\_\_ Mike Sullivan \_\_\_ Sue Wray\*\*

**STAFF LIAISON: Meryl Dye, Assistant City Manager**

**\* Chairperson \*\* Vice Chair-Person**

**2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS BY AUDIENCE** – Please limit your remarks to five (5) minutes and to items NOT on the agenda.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2018**

**4. REPORTS**

- A. HHRC Attendance Record
- B. Informal Complaint Report – No complaints for January 2018; one (1) complaint for February 2018.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Review and Future Planning of Community Conversations.
- B. Other

**7. COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS**

- A. Commissioners
- B. Staff

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Meeting: April 18, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. – Council Conference Room**



**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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> in the Council Conference Room.**



**COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS  
PLANNING MEETING NOTES  
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 – Council Conference Room**

**1. Participants:**

- Meryl Dye, Asst. City Mgr.
- Cynthia Flores, ESSDACK
- Miriam Kitson, Hutch in Harmony
- Olivia Martinez, HHRC
- Natasha Russell-Iverson, HHRC
- Jeff Slater, First United Methodist Church
- Rebecca Shetler, Hutch in Harmony

**2. Introductions** - Introductions were made, and names and email contacts collected. Mayor Steve Dechant attended just to observe and listen.

**3. Event Details** - February 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Justice Theatre, HCC Shears Technology Center. Panelist will be asked to arrive at 6:00 p.m. to meet one another and the moderator.

**4. Panel Members:**

- Sheriff Randy Henderson - confirmed
- Darrell Pope - confirmed
- Amy Slater – confirmed
- Damarcus Myer – confirmed
- Jennette James – confirmation pending
- Cynthia Flores - confirmed
- Islamic Society of Wichita member – recommendation pending; Rebecca to follow-up.

Cynthia Flores asked for **Esmeralda Tovar** be added to the panel to tell her story on possible deportation, which gained attention when she was interviewed with Jimmy Kimmel. Esmeralda has said she would be interested in being on the panel. This segment of our community should be included in the discussion. The group agreed to add Esmeralda, but cautioned the discussion should not involve immigration policy which could take a lot of time and change the direction of the conversation.

**4. Moderator** – Lynette Lacy is unavailable as moderator. She recommended either Phil Auxier or Ron Fisher. Auxier is not available. Dye recommended Jeff Slater as moderator. She said Jeff has skills to lead the discussion, hosted Unity in Diversity at First United Methodist Church, and shown continued interest by attending the planning sessions. Olivia recommended Charles Dickenson. After much discussion, Jeff accepted the role. The group would also like to have Dr. Hence Parson to conduct the opening welcome from HCC, describe the format for the evening, handle panel introductions, and make closing remarks. Meryl will visit with Hence.

**5. Format/Materials** - Miriam shared a **Welcome** handout that includes a brief intro, guidelines for discussion (ground rules), the format of the meeting as well as goals. She will continue working on the handout.

Natasha brought up a **Shared Vocabulary** from the Racial Equity Toolbox. It was agreed to include this with the handouts. Rebecca shared a diagram on overt/covert white supremacy. She will provide another diagram on racism.

Dye distributed a draft **Evaluation Form**. Miriam offered to work on changes to the draft.

Dye shared **Conversation Starters** that could be used by the moderator in preparation. Jeff will review the questions and prepare on his own. He said he will listen to panelists and guide discussion with questions that are pertinent to the topics being discussed, or as follow-up to their remarks. The conversation starters are helpful if conversation drops off.

**Panel & Audience** - It was agreed to have moderated panel discussion for 30 to 45 minutes with questions from the moderator, and then open for audience questions. The group discussed whether to have open microphone or written questions to the panel. It was finally agreed to have the audience write out their questions to be collected throughout this segment. The moderator will read the questions to the panel.

Refreshments will be provided by HCC. Meryl will get bios for each panel member for their introduction, name tents, name tags, and paper & box for audience questions.

6. **Promotion** – Dye distributed a **flyer** that can be used by groups to post on Facebook, websites, email, or general distribution. Dye will send the pdf version or jpg version of the flyer. Sue Wray will work on a **media release** that would likely go out about a week in advance of the event. Rebecca is coordinating with Ron Sylvester to do a **live video stream** of the conversation for use by the Hutchinson News.
7. **Other** – The group agreed more conversations will be needed, and suggested developing a **tool kit** that would include ideas such as reading suggestions, web sites or blogs to visit, action steps for your family, starting a small group, local events, etc. It may take time to develop the resources for the tool kit.
8. **Next Planning Session: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room.** This is the regular HHRC meeting time. It was suggested to use this meeting time to continue the planning.

Notes by Meryl Dye.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS  
PLANNING MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 – Council Conference Room

1. This planning session replaced the regular meeting of the Hutchinson Human Relations Commission. A quorum of HHRC members was present, but no formal action was taken by the Commission.
2. **Participants:**
  - John Deardoff, City Manager
  - David Dove, HHRC Chair
  - Meryl Dye, Asst. City Mgr.
  - Miriam Kitson, Hutch in Harmony
  - Olivia Martinez, HHRC
  - Carrie Myer, HHRC
  - Kalene Nisly, HHRC
  - Hence Parson, HCC
  - Darrell Pope, Hutch NAACP
  - Natasha Russell-Iverson, HHRC
  - Rebecca Shetler, Hutch in Harmony
  - Mike Sullivan, HHRC
  - Phil Wood, Hutch NAACP
  - Sue Wray, HHRC V. Chair
3. **Moderator** – Pastor Jeff Slater asked the group to line up another Moderator since he has been unable to prepare and uncertain he will be well in time due to the flu. Hence Parson recommended Phil Wood to replace Jeff as Moderator. Phil accepted and will prepare after discussion with Hutch in Harmony members. He will allow as much time as possible for both the panelists and audience.
4. **Panel Members** – All panel members have confirmed and have provided biographies for introductions. Meryl will ask panelists to arrive at 6 p.m. Panel members include:
  - Amena Elamin, Muslim Student Society at WSU.
  - Cynthia Flores – ESSDACK
  - Sheriff Randy Henderson
  - Darrell Pope – Hutch NAACP
  - Rev. Amy Slater – First United Methodist Church
  - Damarcus Myer – Junior at HHS
  - Bishop Jennette James – Open Door Church, Wichita
  - Esmerada Tovar, DACA recipient
5. **Format/Materials** –
  - **Program Booklet** – Includes table of contents, itinerary, intro to participants, welcome, guidelines for discussion, What You Can Do, vocabulary, suggested books & helpful links, and related graphs. Miriam to finish draft for Meryl to print.
  - **Evaluation Forms** – Miriam to provide entry/exit questionnaires. Exit surveys may be collected after the event through email invitation or return envelopes. Miriam to coordinate.
  - **Video Presentation** – Becca to set up presentation of Hutch in Harmony interviews & quotes to play prior to event start.
  - **Live Streaming** – Becca is coordinating with Ron Sylvester for the Hutch News to live stream. They need early access to the room for set-up.
  - **Room Set Up & Audio/Video** – Hence to coordinate on tables/chairs & audio/video.
  - **Materials** – Meryl to do name tents, name tags, writing materials for audience and program printing.
  - **Promotion** – Media release sent, announcements on City’s website, Facebook, Channel 7 and public announcement to City Council. Sue will post on Hutch News Calendar. Hutch in Harmony has Facebook announcement for all of us to share.
  - **Refreshments** – HCC order has been placed and will be set up in lobby.

Members are asked to arrive by 6 p.m. There will be no additional planning sessions.

Notes by Meryl Dye  
[Meryl.Dye@hutchgov.com](mailto:Meryl.Dye@hutchgov.com)



**HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS  
INFORMAL COMPLAINT SUMMARY - 2018**

**January** – No Complaints.

**February** – An African American male says he was recruited from his job in Wichita to work for a local retail business. Out of the seven (7) months he worked for the new employer he had top sales for four (4) months. During this time, he witnessed his White male manager and other White employees making racial and sexual jokes, racial slurs and name-calling, and bashing of LGBT. This was regularly done in sales staff meetings and in the open in front of minority and female employees, as well as customers. He expressed his objection to the manager, and then followed up by making a complaint to the Human Resources department at the corporate offices in Texas. Following his complaint, his manager called him into the office to tell him he was being let go because his sales were not satisfactory. Dye recommended that he file a discrimination charge with the Kansas Human Rights Commission, and offered her assistance. We are currently waiting for the State to send a formal discrimination charge for his notarized signature. *Area of Jurisdiction = Employment; Basis = Race and Retaliation.*