



MINUTES
HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 – Council Conference Room

1. **Call to Order** – Present: Joe Allen, David Dove (Chair), Kalene Nisly, Olivia Martinez, Natasha Russell-Iverson, Mike Sullivan and Sue Wray (V. Chair). Meryl Dye (Staff Liaison) was also present. Absent: Jerome Kahn and Carrie Myer.
2. **Oral Communications by Audience** – Chairperson Dove recognized audience member Paul Waggoner. Waggoner asked to make comments and acknowledged that his comments are related to the agenda topic of Community Conversations. Dove invited Waggoner to proceed with his comments. Waggoner said he attended the Community Conversation on February 27th and thought the discussion was good. However, he expressed objection to several pages in the program handout. He provided a copy of the page with a pyramid chart listing phrases under covert White Supremacy. Waggoner had circled the phrases he disagreed as being terms associated with White Supremacy. He also objected to some of the listings under Suggested Books. Under Helpful Organizations, he took exception to the inclusion of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), which he regards as having no credibility. He said he learned that these materials came from members of Hutch in Harmony, but the City paid for the printing of the program. He said public funds should not have been used, and that in doing so may appear as the City's endorsement of political views held by other groups. He urged the HHRC to disassociate itself with Hutch in Harmony.
3. **Minutes** – Dye said the minutes of January 17th and the meeting notes of February 21st are included in the agenda packet, and suggested both should be voted on for approval. She explained that since the February meeting was a regular meeting time for the HHRC and a quorum was present, the meeting notes serve as minutes even though the meeting involved other groups and was used for planning the Community Conversations. Wray made a motion to approve the minutes of January 17, 2018, and meeting notes for Feb 21, 2018. Allen seconded the motion and motion passed.
4. **Reports**
 - A. Attendance Record - Dye explained the purpose of tracking attendance to assure compliance with City policy pertaining to all City boards. Dove said he will contact members whose attendance falls short of the requirements to see if improvement can be expected.
 - B. Informal Complaint Report - Dye described the employment discrimination complaint of an African-American male who was fired after he confronted his supervisor about openly making racial and sexual remarks and jokes. He later reported his boss's continuing derogatory comments to corporate HR in another state. His boss then let him go stating his sales did not meet standards, although he says his sales topped all other sales for 4 months of the 7 months that he worked for the employer. Dye is assisting Complainant in filing a formal race/retaliation charge with the Kansas Human Rights Commission.

5. **Unfinished Business** – None.

6. **New Business**

A. Community Conversations – Russell-Iverson said she is working with Hutch in Harmony to enter February 27th results from the evaluation forms on Survey Monkey which can provide various formats of the data. Members agreed the meeting was a success since there was great attendance by a diverse audience, good panel discussion, and a lot of audience questions. The Hutchinson News reported about 700 people streaming the live video and in total about 2000 viewers. Wray believes the success was due in part to the amount of marketing, while other members thought the success can also be attributed to the panel members selected as well as the partners who sponsored the event. There was discussion about moving on to other topics. Wray suggested staying with the topic of Race since there appears to be community interest in the topic. However, she wants to hear more about what is going now in race relations, rather than reflecting on the past. Members agreed the panel approach was helpful, but different panel members should be invited next time. Russell-Iverson suggested having a short film before leading into discussion. There was concern that the audience needs more time to express views. Discussion was had about trying other formats such as communal meals or small group discussions, or some combination, and continuing to work with other organizations as sponsors. Russell-Iverson said more can be determined once the questionnaire results are available, and that discussion can continue at the next meeting. She will get the questionnaire results to HHRC members as soon as they are available.

There was no other new business or communications.

7. **Adjournment** – Wray made a motion to adjourn. Sullivan seconded the motion that passed.

Minutes prepared by Meryl Dye, Staff Liaison.

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