

HUTCHINSON
Human Relations
COMMISSION

MINUTES
HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, June 17 2020
City Hall – Council Chambers

1. **Call to Order** – Present; Dixon, Myer, Russell-Iverson, , Frischenmeyer, Juma, Sotelo Holquin Absent: Johnson, Cowser, Grissom
2. **Oral Communications by Audience**
Mayor Piros de Carvalho asked where the commission stood on changing the HRO position from part-time to full time. Chair responded indicating that we needed to be in line with the ordinance and hoped that the City would consider this an important position. The consensus of the Commission agreed with the Chair. HRO agreed to add the discussion to the agenda next meeting including the specific details about the role.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Motion by Chair Russell-Iverson, second by Frischenmeyer, to approve the Minutes from the February 19, 2020 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Unfinished Business**

NA

5. **New Business**

DE- Phase 1 (April's re-visit with Faith Group) HNH

Conversation about next phases include how we can host these discussions virtually. HRO advised that a message was sent out by HNH about availability. Due to COVID 19 and budget freezing, HRO advised committee that the agreed upon contract was not fully executed and in order to move forward with follow-up the commission would likely need to do the effort internally. HRO will create a timetable as to who to visit with and how we can further have the discussion.

Census Efforts

HRO recommended that Commissioners attempt to do a Census Video talking about the importance of the Census and sharing it within their networks via social media. HRO will provide Commissioners information on how to accomplish this from the direction of the Count Committee. Chair advised that census information was being provided through the library. David Sotelo advised that the bilingual information was shared at our Lady Guadalupe Church

Commissioner Resignation/Recruitment

Commissioner Nisly resigned in March and recommended David Sotelo as her replacement. David Joined the zoom call and advised that he would be interested in being on the commission and would consider sending in his application for approval.

Covid19 issues/response

Chair advised that there are concerns with the availability of PPE's is still a concern for minority groups advised that Commissioner Johnson may have some direct information on this. HRO advised that we are keeping track of numbers and updates via re-opening plans and activities by health officials. Felt that the response has been reasonable given the size and scope of the county spread. Commissioner Meyer Brought up the impact of Schools being unable to provide electronic devices to all and the challenge faced with doing homeschool. Buhler seems to be having more resources available to provide devices while 308 students were not as fortunate. David Sotelo advised that this issue is largely due to the capacity but that they are being successful in lunch programs and intended to resume certain activities the last week of May

6. Communications and Comments

Commissioners Reports -

Chair Russell - Iverson encourages the commission to participate in the community Cares Team and think about how the commission can be instrumental in their efforts.

Commissioner Grissom reports that the hospital essential workers may be experiencing pay cuts and essential workers are exhausted from the extreme efforts business have to undergo in order to keep places of operations safe.

Commissioner Dixon reported that the pay cuts through the hospital are impacting the higher-level administration workgroups and they are ranging from 5-10% including reduction in PTO.

Commissioner Frischenmeyer advised that there is still an issue with information reaching the deaf community and asked that we re-institute translation at Council meetings to ensure that community gets those updates as well. HRO advised would send that recommendation over to City leadership.

Commissioner Meyer indicates that churches have largely been holding online worship and anticipates it to continue until early June.

HRO Activity Report -

HRO reported three cases submitted since last meeting 2 employment cases and one advocacy case (complaints from those not in protected classes) HRO has been participating in a number of groups that have formed around the county including the Nonprofits Connect RCERT Steering Committee Clergy Zoom and Communities Cares Team. HRO advised that these groups may have formed under COVID but anticipates they will likely last indefinitely.

7. **Adjournment** – Motioned by Russell-Iverson, seconded by Commissioner Meyer to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Datjaeda Moore, Human Relations Officer

**Next Meeting: June 17, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
City Hall – TBD**