

MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
March 22, 2018

Call to Order – This regular meeting of the Ames Human Relations Commission was called to order by Commissioner Heidi Thompson at 5:30 p.m. in Conference Room 235 of City Hall. Commissioners Joel Hochstein and Anneke Mundel were present. John Klaus was not present. Staff member Brian Phillips was also present.

Public Forum – There was no one present for public forum.

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 22, 2018 – It was moved by Anneke, seconded by Joel to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2018 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Complaints or Inquiries from the Public – Brian reported no communication had been received from the public.

Program of Quarterly Educational Seminars – Heidi reported she heard from the Cyclone SHRM group, but the state was not willing to go present at their conference, since the state presented at another SHRM event recently. She noted that in the past, ICRC has provided free educational activities, but now there are charges for those workshops. Heidi had contacted the Tribune regarding publishing the educational piece she had prepared. She also reported meeting with Mainstream Living's ACE group. Heidi reported she had some materials she suggested would be good to include on the AHRC website.

Anneke reported she had reached out to Derek Crisler from Channel 12. He responded that he didn't have time to put something together by April, but that some public PSAs could be easily obtained. Anneke found some longer pieces that she felt would fit better. However, there would need to be some shortening of the video and perhaps some introduction by an AHRC member. Anneke will work with Derek to identify whether he can use the existing PSAs and develop a plan for producing local PSAs in the future.

Commission Annual Report Revision – Joel had some clarifying edits to make to the report. It was moved by Joel, seconded by Anneke, to approve the report subject to the changes he had proposed, an update to a table, and other corrections identified by the Commission. Motion carried unanimously. The Commissioners indicated they would prefer to meet with the City Council on April 10th to present the annual report. The Commissioners discussed how they would approach the conversation with the Council related to the Commission's charge and purpose. It was moved by Anneke, seconded by Anneke, to authorize Joel to draft a letter to accompany the report with a list of questions and thoughts the Commission would like discussed with the City Council.

Municipal Equality Index Scorecard – Joel did not have any updates.

Fair Housing Month – The award will be presented at the City Council meeting on April 10th. For the Home for Everyone Award, one nomination was received for Carrie Moser, of Emergency Residence Project. It was moved by Joel, seconded by Anneke, to approve Carrie Moser as the recipient of the Home for Everyone Award. Motion carried unanimously. Joel agreed to order the award and contact Carrie.

Partnership with Inclusive Ames – Joel indicated he had received an email from Barb Wheelock expressing interest by Inclusive Ames to partner on programming being coordinated by the Commission. Barb had invited Commission members to meet with Inclusive Ames to discuss this further. Because the Commission has yet to meet with the City Council regarding its future and direction, Joel indicated he would respond with a thank-you and decline to discuss right now.

Diversity and Inclusion Summit – Joel reported regarding a diversity and inclusion summit to be sponsored by the Ames Chamber of Commerce for the Ames business community. He had been asked to participate and wanted to consult with the Commission. The Commission would assist with the planning and programming. Heidi suggested the summit might serve as one of the Commission's fall educational seminars. It was moved by Heidi, seconded by Anneke, to have Joel continue to work on behalf of the Commission to plan this event. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Comments – Brian asked whether the Commissioners were able to access the Community that contains the Commission's documents. Joel and Anneke were able to access it; Heidi was not. Brian will work with Heidi to provide her access.

Next Meeting: April 26, 2018

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.