

Minutes

AMES HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Conference Room 235
City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Chair Joel Hochstein.

Members Present: Wayne Clinton and Jill Crosser

Member(s) Absent: Liming Pals and Madesh Samanu

Guests: None

Staff Liaison: Deb Schildroth

Approval of Minutes: Wayne moved approval of the December 16, 2019 minutes and Jill seconded. Motion Carried.

Public Forum: None

Publicity for the Humanitarian and A Home for Everyone Awards: Commission members discussed the frequency of pushing out information on the Humanitarian and A Home for Everyone awards. This could be done electronically as well as through events such as National Night Out, Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations, etc. Joel suggested adding the list of prior award recipients from the past 5 years when issuing press releases and re-canvassing people who have submitted nominations. The Ames Chamber could also be approached about partnering with getting the word out.

Annual Report Review – Joel provided a draft of the Annual Report and led the Commission through a review of it. He noted that the strategic plan expired 12/31/19 so a new one needs to be done.

The plan is to present the report to Council in April after the new commission member has had the opportunity to attend at least one AHRC meeting.

Other than some grammar and typo corrections, Jill moved approval of the 2019 Annual Report and Wayne seconded. Motion Carried.

Planning for the 2020 Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations – Jill reported that the tentative date is October 27, 2020 at Gateway Hotel and Conference Center.

Review survey responses – 22 individuals responded to the survey. A collective scan of the responses was done amongst the Commission. Joel asked that Commission members come to the March meeting with identified themes from the survey (ie, housing, school safety, police, etc). The plan is to use the information to inform Council and prepare the next strategic plan.

Iowa Civil Rights Symposium – The Symposium is scheduled for April 3, 2020 in Des Moines. The registration deadline is March 27, 2020. The AHRC budget has funds for two commissioners to attend. Wayne and Jill expressed interest and Deb will work on getting them registered.

Review of Council Goals – Commission members had copies of Council's values/goals for 2020-2021 and discussed those that AHRC could be involved with. Under the Council Value of "Diverse, equitable, and Inclusive Community" goals 1-3 could be incorporated into AHRC's new strategic plan.

Commissioner Announcements: Joel will not be at the March meeting due to travel.

Next Meeting: March 26, 2020 at 5:30pm.

Adjournment: Wayne moved adjournment at 6:34pm.