

Minutes

AMES HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION **Special Meeting**

Conference Call
1-720-279-0026
Passcode: 190045

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm by and opened the meeting with the following statement:

“This meeting is being held electronically because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Governor of Iowa’s Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration which included limits on public gatherings; therefore, it is impractical to hold an in-person meeting.”

Members Present: Liming Pals, Jill Crosser, and Jahmai Fisher

Member(s) Absent: Wayne Clinton and Madesh Samanu

Guests: Joel Hochstein

Staff Liaison: Deb Schildroth

Public Forum: None

Appointing a New Chair:

Liming moved Jill as chair and Jill seconded Motion carried unanimously.

New Commission Member:

Jahmai introduced herself and her interest in serving on the AHRC.

Continue Review of Survey Responses:

There was acknowledgement about the difficulties in collecting data. The responses highlight what we already know regarding bias.

A continued focus area is race in the community and looking at which racial equity tools could be used to find ways to regularly collect data.

It was suggested to share survey comments with the various City departments referred to.

Liming expressed interest in still looking at ways to gather feedback from focus groups at some point in time.

Jahmai stated that the way in which the data has been formatted is difficult to understand and asked about seeing the original survey. She noted responses that expressed feelings of discrimination and feelings of being unsafe.

Jill agreed with trying to collect information on a regular basis as answers today may look different than before due to COVID-19. She also noted that microaggressions still occurred based on her review of the survey results.

Joel stated that the Commission needs to think about ways to get the most robust data. He also reminded Commission members that the strategic plan expired so a new one needs to be developed.

The 2019 Annual Report needs to be presented to Council in May. Deb will send out the final version as well as the original survey questions and the 2017-2019 strategic plan.

Commissioner Announcements: None

Next Meeting: April 23, 2020 at 5:30pm.

Adjournment: Liming moved and Jill seconded adjournment at 6:12 pm.