

Minutes

AMES HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Meeting held via Zoom
Thursday, May 28, 2020

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm by Chair Jill Crosser

Members Present: Wayne Clinton, Madesh Samanu, Liming Pals, and Jahmai Fisher

Member(s) Absent: NA

Guests: None present

Staff Liaison: Deb Schildroth

There was a moment of silence for reflection on the family of George Floyd.

Approval of Minutes: Wayne moved approval of the April 23, 2020 minutes and Liming seconded. Motion carried unanimously

Public Forum: None

Discussion of Time and Day for Monthly AHRC Meetings: Continue with the 4th Thursday of each month at 5:30pm.

Strategic Planning: Commission members continued working on the strategic plan. Goal A will be more about advocacy. There was discussion about the Commission's role as information and resource and increasing visibility so that people in the community know who the members of AHRC are. One way to promote this would be for Commission members to submit a photo and bio for the AHRC webpage. Photos and bios are due to Deb by June 15th.

Jahmai inquired about the accessibility of the complaint process. Complaints are handled through the Iowa Civil Rights Commission (ICRC). It was suggested that maybe an invitation could be extended to an ICRC representative to present on the complaint process, availability of the reports they provide to AHRC, and overall services. Deb will follow up with ICRC.

Planning for the 2020 Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations: No report.

Social Media Content Ideas: Liming shared that she had talked with Mayor Haila about the treatment Asians had been receiving since COVID-19. She issued her own survey to the Asian community in an effort to collect information and will share those results with the Commission members. Liming also suggested the Commission creating a statement supporting the Asian community. Liming will work on a draft.

Commissioner Announcements: Wayne recommended that a thank you be sent to Chief Cychosz for his public statement about policing and the death of George Floyd. Chair Crosser will follow up.

Next Meetings: June 10, 2020 at 5:30pm will be a special meeting to continue working on the strategic plan. June 25, 2020 at 5:30pm will be a regular meeting.

Adjournment: Liming moved and Madesh seconded adjournment at 7:19pm.