

City of Fort Collins Human Relations Commission (HRC)
September 14, 2017, 5:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Location: CIC Room, City Hall West, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

Council Liaison: Council Member Bob Overbeck

Staff Liaison: Director of Social Sustainability Beth Sowder

Recorder: Jayne A. Smith

Present: Kimberly Allison, Jimena Britón, Colleen Conway, Johanna Ulloa Girón, Victor Smith, Joseph Somodi and Nancy Tellez

- **Absent:** Susan Mathre

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Agenda Review: The meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes: The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Input:

- **Jana Knapp Sanchez – Ignite Fort Collins**
Jana Knapp Sanchez outlined that **Ignite Fort Collins** events present organized and polished speeches that emphasize making connections with others involved with similar interests.

Guest Presentation:

- **Ty Smith, Director, CSU Native American Cultural Center**, spoke about the CSU Student Diversity Programs and Services designed for student success, retention and community outreach. An update on the Dakota Access Pipeline was also presented.

Budget Review: The year-to-date budget was reviewed.

Committee Reports:

- **Government Relations:** Numerous topics were reported upon by Jimena Britón.
- Victor Smith discussed the recent **memo to Council** re: recommendations for response to hate flyers. A **motion was unanimously approved** to send a follow-up memo to Council for clarification about the importance of the distinction between declaring Fort Collins a welcoming community vs. acknowledging the process of working toward being a welcoming and inclusive community.
- **Educational Outreach:** There was discussion about the value of partnering with other agencies. Kimberly Allison suggested the HRC host a presentation of and discussion about the film “Cracking the Codes”. A **motion was made and unanimously approved** to plan the event.
- **Media / Community Recognition:** The first submissions for the **Human Relations Commission Awards** have been received. October 26 is the deadline for all submissions.
- **Executive:** The 2018 / 2019 **Work Plan** was unanimously approved pending editing.
- Colleen Conway will send out the **Annual Report** to the committee chairs for review.
- Beth Sowder will be stepping down as **HRC Staff Liaison** effective January, 2018. Carol Thomas, Equal Opportunity and Compliance Officer, will become the HRC Staff Liaison.

Discussion Topics:

- Joe Somodi thanked the commission for their support and energy in planning the Dec 6th **FoCo Speaks Out!** Five speakers are confirmed. A **dedicated website** for this event was unanimously approved.
- A **Coalition of Human Relations Commissions** update was given by Colleen Conway. The HRC supports the concept for a collaborative work environment between other HRC commissions.
- Joe Somodi has attended some meetings of the **Socially Responsible Investing** group and informed the commission that their key values have shifted since last year.

- A review of protocol for appointing committee positions for 2018 was discussed. Victor Smith encouraged the commission members to consider **HRC Committee Chair positions** for 2018.
- An evaluation of **Work Sessions** was discussed in depth by Colleen Conway and other commission members. A **motion was unanimously approved** to include work session notes as part of the monthly agenda.
- The **Community Trust Ordinance** feedback was discussed. There was a consensus to support a **Task Force** that may be established to recommend changes to City policies.

Closing: A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 7:30 p.m.

The **Next HRC meeting** will be Thursday October 12, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in the CIC Room, City Hall West.