

Meeting Place: Remote

Meeting Called To Order: 6:00, Monday, May 10, 2021

Chair read the Chairperson Statement.

Roll Call: Loreen Flockerzie, Daniel Yalowitz, Mo Lyons, Carolyn McDaniel, Peter Michael Smith, Wendy Goodman, Wid Perry

Others Present: Keith Barnicle, Communications Director, Town of Greenfield; Bob Williford (Community observer)

A **motion** was to approve the April 26th Minutes - motion seconded and approved, 7-0.

Announcements: Keith reported that the Mayor is reviewing our Complaint Process and is waiting for the response from the City Lawyer. Be patient as the City is in the middle of the budget process.

Loreen mentioned the removal of the ICE inmates from the Franklin County Jail, expressing concern that it appears the 30 day notice wasn't honored. Should the HRC respond to this issue? Perhaps a Letter to the Sheriff or a My Turn in the paper. Do we need more information on the situation? Should we provide representation?

Wendy agreed to research the matter and write to the Sheriff (providing a copy to the HRC e-mail box).

Loreen mentioned the start of the FRTA late night Taxi service to help those individuals working late shifts in the area, sponsored by local businesses and non-profits.

Public Open Forum: Nothing to discuss. Bob Williford is again observing.

Human Rights Incident/Complaint Form Subcommittee Report. As discussed above.

Human Rights Calendar. The Commission had an extensive discussion on the topic.

Regarding the Calendar, what is our vision and what is the purpose? In May, we observe Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and it is Mental Health Awareness Month. How do these events tie in to our work? (women issues, pandemic effects, NELCWIT, honoring the fallen sacrifice and patriotism defending our Human rights, Mental Health Awareness to help represent the marginalized, etc.

Should the calendar be of a broader scope? An annual calendar with milestones and checkpoints?

- Budget
- Annual Reports
- Themes (editorial calendar) for action (letters, public announcements, etc.).

Calendar should be forward thinking and action based.

Is it too late for June calendar event actions (beyond highlighting for general meeting discussion)? Father's Day. Flag Day. Juneteenth.

Should the calendar feature pre-selected topics to highlight and advertise to the public?

Should we formalize presentations on topics and invite knowledgeable speakers to participate in the discussion?

We come up with a monthly theme – "And then what?" ..... Do we advocate? Promote?

Should we deal with one issue at a time?

Should we follow the City Calendar as a guide?

Should we wait for the Mayor's release of Standard Operating Procedures for Boards and Commissions before we proceed?

Pete made a **motion**: Add a standing agenda item to plan calendar events three months ahead. Carolyn seconded, Motion passed 7-0.

Pete made a **motion**: Commit to drafting a press release from the HRC to acknowledge Juneteenth. Motion seconded and passed 6-0.

Daniel, Wendy and Pete volunteered to serve on a subcommittee drafting the press release.

**Motion:** Table our Calendar discussion until we receive more information from the Mayor's Office regarding SOP expectations. Seconded and approved, 7-0.

Commission Mission/Vision Statement. Approved Mission Statement at last meeting – still need to approve the Vision Statement as proposed:

### **VISION STATEMENT**

Consideration for human rights is integrated into every decision made in the city of Greenfield and every citizen is empowered to advocate for the protection of their rights and the rights of others.

**Motion:** Approve Vision Statement as above. Motion seconded and passed, 7-0.

Secretary will forward final Mission/Statement to Keith Barnacle for Mayor's review and potential posting.

Old Business: Nature Gap. Should we make this part of our calendar?

Nature Gap concerns water and river access, access to nature and recreational resources (especially for marginalized groups). Higher admission rates for out of towners at local recreational facilities, closing of other access points (i.e. Pumping Station) creates issues "up river" at private locations as people migrate elsewhere on river.

Brings up racial issues and concerns

**Motion:** Form a HRC subcommittee to explore the Nature Gap. Seconded and approved, 6-0 with one abstaining.

New Business:

-Mayor and Staff helped out at the Soup Kitchen event. 30-40 volunteers weekly – now offer delivery service.

**Motion** made at 7:30 to adjourn meeting (Daniel). Motion Seconded and approve. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 14th 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Submit agenda items to Loreen no later than noon, Monday, May 7th, 2021.