

MINUTES OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

A regular session of Human Relations Commission was held on Thursday, January 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at Troy Senior Citizens Center.

Members Attending: Brown, Feltner, Fong, Keller, Major, Phillips, Severt.

Presiding Officer: Chairman Marvin Major, Sr.

Others Attending: City Staff
Andrea Keller (Troy Main Street)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting commenced at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman's call to order.

ROLL CALL: Roll call was conducted by Ms. Brown. Ms. Holycross was absent.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Severt, seconded by Mr. Feltner, the December 17, 2020 minutes were approved by the commission unanimously having no corrections or additions to these minutes.

ANNUAL REPORT AND INITIATIVES: Upon motion of Mr. Severt, seconded by Mr. Keller, the 2020 Annual Report and 2021 Initiatives were approved by the commission unanimously, having no corrections or additions. Subsequent to the approval of the document, Ms. Brown noted that the document provides information on what the HRC has accomplished since its re-establishment. She added that the HRC has an opportunity for growth and to take on more initiatives.

PRESENTATION: Troy Main Street (TMS) Executive Director Andrea Keller gave a brief organizational overview of Troy Main Street and spoke about its goals, projects, programs, committees, and volunteering opportunities. She listed a few events and a couple of new TMS projects, such as Grand Illumination, Sculptures on the Square, Walking Map, and Downtown Mural Project. 2021 event calendar was distributed to the HRC members and meeting attendees. The Commission Members inquired about the diversity on the TMS Board. Ms. Keller stated that attempts had been made to add more diversity to the board in the past, but the efforts were not successful. However, the discussion on the issue emanated again since the National Main Street Organization has changed the evaluation process and started to inquire about the Main Street Boards' diverse representation for accreditation purposes. Ms. Keller added that it had been challenging to address the issue as it requires finding alternative approaches to recruit new board members. Still, TMS plans to continue the pursuit of various ways to increase diversity.

APPROVAL OF LIST OF 2021 SPEAKERS: The Commission Members proposed adding speakers to the list from Partners in Hope, Dayton Human Relations Council, and two professors, one from the University of Dayton and the other from the Ohio State University, to discuss potential diversity training. The two above-mentioned professors' contact information would be confirmed and provided to the HRC at the next meeting. Upon the motion of Mr. Severt, seconded by Mr. Feltner, the 2021 Speakers List was unanimously approved as amended.

NEXT MEETING: February 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Troy Senior Citizens Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments were provided.

OTHER: Mr. Feltner recommended a book, 'uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man' by Emmanuel Acho. The book discusses past and present experiences related to systematic racism and conveys information Americans need to know to address the issue by asking uncomfortable questions many white Americans are hesitant to ask. Mr. Feltner noted that reading the book will benefit everyone. Mr. Major recommended reading 'Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent' by Isabel Wilkerson. The book talks about how a hidden caste system has shaped America today and throughout its history, how this caste system influences people's lives and behavior, and how America can overcome it.

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.