

# FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

CITIZENS SERVICES BUILDING

401 Sagner Ave.

Frederick, MD 21701

## **Minutes of the March 26, 2019 Meeting**

- I. The meeting was held at Winchester Hall, and called to order by Chair Mari Lee. An invitation was extended to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. The following members were present: Mari Lee, Roger Sobkowiak, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Blair Pettrey, Francisco Alves, Adam Book, Michael Baran, Annette Breiling, and Irene Packer-Halsey. HRC applicants Georgette Hughes and Desiree Tucker were present. Jarrin Hannerson was also present.
- III. The minutes from the February 2019 HRC meeting were reviewed and approved by vote.
- IV. Action Item: The Executive Committee recommended that the HRC vote to recommend Georgette Hughes for appointment to the HRC. Upon motion, HRC members voted unanimously to do so. The Executive Committee also recommended that current HRC members Roger Sobkowiak, Mari Lee, Annette Breiling and Lee Whisner be recommended for reappointment to the HRC. Upon motion, HRC members voted unanimously to do so.
- V. Officer and Committee Reports
  - a. A brief summary of the Executive Committee meeting was given. It was reported that the amount of funds presently available to the HRC are \$2,699.63
  - b. Standing Committees

The CRC is planning several upcoming forums. Details will be provided in the future. Chris Isleib will work with Asbury Church to coordinate.

GRC – Roger Sobkowiak expressed concern that the Board of Education is not taking action to address problems. A letter will be drafted about these concerns and circulated for approval. Roger Sobkowiak raised the issue of whether the HRC should seek approval to expand its authority to investigate beyond housing, employment and public accommodations. This will be considered and discussed further at the upcoming HRC retreat.

IRC – Roger Sobkowiak has been helping IRC members get started on developing a strategic plan.

Dana Falls has been appointed to be the liaison from the Frederick County Public Schools, and has been contacted and notified about the HRC's meeting schedule.

VI. Old Business

A vigil of support for Muslims in the community was held recently. Roger Sobkowiak and Annette Breiling attended, and Annette spoke. Ben MacShane helped organize it, and approximately 500 people attended. People of several different faiths spoke about love versus hate.

VII. New Business

- a. The HRC's Spring Retreat will be held at the Public Safety Training Facility on April 6, 2019, from 8:30 am until 1:30 pm.
- b. The HRC's Human Rights Banquet will be held on Wednesday, April 24, from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm, at Dutch's Daughter, 581 Himes Ave., Frederick, MD 21703. Kris Fair will be the guest speaker and Adam Book will play the piano.
- c. The HALO barbershop quartet will present a concert of song and a discussion on race on Sunday, April 28, from 2-4 pm at ERUCC. The HRC has contributed funds to help sponsor this event.
- d. On May 7 an informational event about human trafficking and the internet will take place at Frederick High School from 6-8 pm. An FBI agent will speak. Heartly House, the HRC, and the County's Human Trafficking Response Team are some of the sponsors for this event.

VIII. Members who chose to do so made brief final comments.

IX. The meeting was adjourned.