

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

CITIZENS SERVICES BUILDING

401 Sagner Ave.

Frederick, MD 21701

Minutes of the April 30, 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, Lisa Clark, Roger Sobkowiak, Francisco Alves, Adam Book, and Chris Isleib. City of Frederick Liaison member Ben MacShane, and HRC applicant Georgette Hughes were present.
- III. Due to the lack of a quorum, the March 26, 2019 minutes were not approved.
- IV. Executive Committee Report
 - a. A brief summary of the Executive Committee meeting was given.
 - b. Treasurer's Report

It was reported that while some matters are still being adjusted, the receipts for tickets, ads and student scholarships came in less than \$100 shy of covering all of the costs incurred at this year's Awards Dinner. There is currently \$2,538.15 on hand.

V. Standing Committee Reports

CRC - 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 concerns on behalf of the GRC about several issues, including the need for a strategic plan and a theme for the upcoming FY20 year. The GRC is also interested in communicating with other

groups in Frederick County to see if they want to pursue partnerships. All of this information could be added to the HRC's annual report.

VI. Liaison reports

Alderman, HRC liaison member, and recent Lord Nickens Community Service Award recipient Ben MacShane discussed a number of activities currently going on in the community. The City recently took over sponsorship of a child and adult food assistance program and is working with the Frederick Community Action Agency to make it a success. The City recently created a Childcare Assistance Fund and an Affordable Housing Fund. The City has created a Round Up program in which people can round up to the next dollar when paying their water bills, and funds received will be used to help people who are facing water shut off.

The City is considering a multi-year lease at a nominal amount that would allow the African American Resources, Cultural Heritage Society of Frederick County (AARCH) to use a city-owned space on E. All Saints Street.

The City is also taking steps to change the race, gender and ethnic compositions of its employees and contractors. Greater emphasis is being placed on hiring contractors that better reflect the community in Frederick. Workshops and surveys are being used to promote diversity and inclusion in the city's workforce. \$50,000 has been set aside to create a diversity program. This will pay for an investigative study by an outside consultant, and may include a review of the City's recruitment and hiring documents and programs.

VII. Old Business

Reports were given and discussion took place concerning the HRC spring retreat on April 6, the HRC awards dinner on April 24, recent developments at the Frederick County Board of Education on some of the issues the HRC wrote to it about, and the Race and #RealTalk event on April 28, featuring the HALO barbershop quartet, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick (UUCF).

VIII. New Business

The HRC is a co-sponsor of an informational event about human trafficking and the internet that will take place at Frederick High School from 6-8 pm. An FBI agent will speak. Heartly House and the County's Human Trafficking Response Team are some of the other sponsors for this event.

This year's Asbury Church Block Party will take place on Saturday, June 22, 2019 on E. All Saints Street. HRC will have a table at this event.

Frederick Pride will take place on June 29 along Carroll Creek in downtown Frederick. More than 8,000 visitors are anticipated to attend this year. The HRC has again designated this as a quarterly day of service project, and all members are encouraged to go online and sign up to work a shift to make this another successful event.

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

X. The meeting was adjourned.