

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

Frederick County Government - Winchester Hall

12 E. Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701

6:00 pm

MINUTES

I. Call To Order – Mari Lee called the meeting to order at 6:02.

II. Roll Call of Members:

The following were present at the meeting: Commissioners Mari Lee, Lisa Clark, Annette Breiling, Cindy Shubin, Veronica Lowe, Georgette Hughes, and Irene Packer-Halsey; Frederick County Government staff member Kelli Goetz, Citizens Services Division; Guests: Karen Duffy, Ophelia Begaye, Dia Drake-Sprague from the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, Chief Jason Lando from the Frederick Police Department and Aje Hill from I Believe in Me.

III. Public Comments: Karen Duffy shared that she is excited to work with Commission.

IV. Guest Speaker: Aje Hill, Executive Director of I Believe in Me

Aje talked about the reparations grant he received and how his organization used it. A use example is their “Unlearn to Relearn” program. The program is free – parent communication is their contribution. Other programming includes community and family engagement sessions. Enrolled 19 kids in summer program with reparation funds. Reparations can be uncomfortable conversations – what is reparations – means different things to different people.

Reparation grant was from the Maryland Episcopal Diocese – his organization was one of 5 that received funds. Aje will share criteria of grant and what follow-up is required as a result.

Mari shared some history of the reparation topic for the Frederick community. Aje is willing to assist in reparation conversations and facilitation, etc.

Aje mentioned his organization's upcoming banquet "Mingle all the Way". He is donating 4 tickets to HRC for members to attend. December 17 from 6-9pm at the Walkersville Fire Hall.

- V. Approval of the October Minutes – Veronica Lowe moved to approve the minutes and Lisa Clark seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved by members.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee

- i. Overview of the Executive Committee Meeting – discussed and set agenda for the 11/29 meeting.
 - ii. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Chris Isleib was not in attendance; Kelli Goetz reported the budget balances: to date \$577.28 has been spent and there is a budget balance of \$4,192.72.

- b. Standing Committees - there were no committee reports.

- VII. Liaison Reports – Chief Jason Lando with the Frederick Police Department will be attending meetings moving forward. He shared information about the success of the FPD crisis car program and shared updates on the new police headquarters, which will have a large community space. There was a question regarding coordination with County on crisis response and Chief Lando said they are in discussion. There was also a question regarding the Citizen forums and the Chief shared updates on the restarting of those.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Reparations – the committee will reschedule planning meeting for later in December. The date(s) for forums are still being discussed – perhaps at end of January or early February.
- b. Human Rights Day Luncheon: 12/12/22 @ Delaplaine 20 have rsvp'd (usually get 40). The planned guest speaker is not available – looking for new guest speaker, talking to Dr. Terry Scott and Dr. Mallory Huard, both from Hood College and Mari Lee suggests a \$200 honorarium if requested. Cindy Shubin moved to approve up to \$200 for the honorarium and Annette Breiling seconded. The motion passed unanimously for up to \$200 for use of an honorarium for the Human Rights Day luncheon speaker.
- c. MLK Day of Service – Lisa Clark provided an update for the event that will be held on January 16 from 1 to 3pm; The ARC is not available; she is working on another venue.
- d. Annette Breiling confirmed the MLK Potluck Dinner at Trinity at 6pm.

IX. New Business

- a. Transition of HRC – Mari Lee shared details around the commissions transition under the County’s Equity Office.

- X. Director’s Report – Kelli Goetz provided an update based on information she received from Michael Hughes (interim acting director for Human Relations Department). Michael has been working with one active complainant, but no other new complaints have come in. Michael is also meeting with County attorneys to understand the Department’s scope of authority, jurisdiction, etc.

Irene Packer-Halsey suggested the members revisit the Commission’s training manual in event of a complaint appeal.

- XI. Brief Comments: Members that chose to do so gave brief comments.

- XII. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.