

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
June 30, 2015

MINUTES

I. The June meeting of the Frederick County Human Relations Commission was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room at Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church Street, Frederick, Maryland by Vice Chair Tonya Amedon.

An invitation was given to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. The following members were present at the meeting: Angela Spencer, Tonya Amedon, David Kaye, Georgia McCauley, Mari Lee, Jack Thomas, Felicia Turner, Francisco Alves, Kavonte Duckett, and Yemi Adeoye.

The following members were absent: Annette Breiling, Lisa Clark and Irene Packer Halsey.

The following liaison members were present: Kathleen Hartsock and Jessica Fitzwater.

Guests present were: Pat Rosensteel, Judy Hughes, Chloe Scott, Lt. Thomas Tokarz and Chief Patrick Grossman.

III. Meeting Minutes approval

Upon a motion by Mari Lee and a second by David Kaye with unanimous membership vote, the May minutes were approved with three changes.

IV. Comments from the Public

Judy Hughes introduced herself and gave a brief introduction. She was invited to the meeting by Lt. Tokarz. She had concerns about the lack of minorities in the police department. She spoke about the many qualifications required to become firefighters and police officers and how they could be a road block to many. She suggested that the FPD go to where the kids are so they feel comfortable. Possibly church youth groups would be a place to start. She feels that the FPD is on the right track with hiring after becoming informed.

Chloe Scott introduced herself and said she was intrigued by the commission and decided to visit a meeting.

Lt. Tokarz said one potential road block in hiring is bad credit; however, they are looking at that in regards to being dishonest or potential corruption. He spoke about the recent in-service training that was held and how they reviewed cases and how the FPD would handle different situations.

FPD is putting a questionnaire in place to see why possible candidates are leaving before finishing the process to help them gain an understanding of why so few make it to the end to graduation.

Captain Grossman stated that they are putting a procedure in place where they are able to send out a letter to candidates that have completed the process to let them know they have been accepted, to hopefully keep them from seeking employment elsewhere while waiting to attend the academy.

Jessica Fitzwater thanked everyone for their support of the repeal of the English as Official Language Ordinance. There have been many great letters to the editor and the FNP has written a very positive article on the bill. The public hearing is July 21 at 7pm and she asked for support at that hearing from the commission. She is starting to collect the petitions so please get them to her office. Angela Spencer requested that the petitions be submitted by the 14th of July. Miles Ward will resend the petition out to the members. She also asked if we could invite someone from the Frederick County Sherriff's office to come in and speak to the issue of hiring minorities.

V. Officers' Reports

Executive Committee

- The Executive Committee interviewed Gene Stanton and will be recommending that he be appointed to the HRC.
- The HRC had a booth at the Asbury Block party on the 20th; it was a great event. It was a good opportunity to have some surveys completed that the GRC developed to capture information from the public.
- Tonya Amedon attended the Kids and Cops Event.
- Angela Spencer and Tonya Amedon attended the Police Academy Graduation at TJ High School on the 26th of June.
- The Frederick Pride Event was rained out; however, some of the members of the HRC attended anyway to show support.

Treasurer's Report

- There is \$ 4,770.00 available to the HRC as of tomorrow at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

VI. Committee Reports

Community Relations Committee

Lisa Clark was not in attendance but sent an e-mail to Angela Spencer to report that the Pangaea Festival had been cancelled and that a date and location were being looked at for the Naturalization Ceremony.

Government Relations Committee

- Mari Lee is working on a script for a public service announcement. Frederick County will be asked to produce it.
- The committee will be hosting a Sensitivity Training Forum for the public and all who chose to attend in late summer. Janet Harding has agreed to be a speaker.
- Georgia McCauley mentioned modification to the regulations and will send out legislative updates by e-mail to everyone.
- Francisco Alves reported that he along with Angela Spencer and Pat Fleet attended the Human Trafficking Seminar at Baltimore Community College and gave a brief report on the event. Angela Spencer said this is becoming a hot topic now and thanked Francisco for agreeing to be the liaison to the Trafficking Task Force in Frederick County. Lt. Tokarz asked to be included on the task force.
- The GRC developed a survey to be used at events. The data gained from the surveys will be used to gain a pulse on the community and issues that should be addressed in forums in the future. David Kaye said the survey was great; however, he felt a place on the survey for a person to give their e-mail address would be good so we could add them to a master list to make sure they receive information such as upcoming events.

Internal Relations Committee

- David Kaye will present his Fair Housing information to residents of Lucas Village, Carver and Lincoln communities. Dates will be determined and announced to the HRC.
- The IRC (David Kaye) is working on coordinating with the FCAR to present Fair Housing information at their event in April 2016.
- The IRC is still working on forming a Young Adult subcommittee of the HRC. The objective will be “To help strengthen their voice by imparting in their lives as they embark on life’s journey”. The committee will be reaching out to different agencies to try to get a diverse membership.

VI. New Business

The Nomination committee submitted the following slate of officers:

Angela Spencer, Chair

Tonya Amedon, Vice Chair

David Kaye, Parliamentarian

Mari Lee, Treasurer

Lisa Clark, Member at Large

There were no new nominations from the floor. Kavonte Duckett made a motion that the slate of officers be accepted as submitted. There was a second made by Felicia Turner, and with a majority vote it was passed.

There was a majority vote to recommend the appointment of Gene Stanton to the HRC; the motion was made by Kavonte Duckett with a second by Mari Lee.

Jack Thomas was presented with a plaque for his 8 years of service to the HRC.

VIII. HRD Director's Report

Miles Ward Reported that he had been asked to present information on events happening around the country, but before he did that he stated that the HRC members take a moment to think that by attending meetings and events they are promoting harmony, diversity and understanding in the community.

There were a number of incidents involving police, but before he passed out information he wanted to make it clear that this information was no reflection on FPD and that he had never lived in a place where the police did so much to become a part of the community.

He passed out 4 articles.

- Blacks pulled over almost twice as much, but who's more likely to have contraband?
- Black Americans killed by police twice as likely to be unarmed as white people.
- By the numbers: US police kill more in days than other countries do in years.
- The Milwaukee Experiment.

He also reported that at the Planting Hope event 3,659 persons were served. They received food, shoes, medical care, haircuts, other services and referrals.

IX. Upcoming Events

Friday and Saturday, July 17 and 18, 2015

Nelson Mandela Day - UNESCO is hosting events to honor this international day for Nelson Mandela. On Friday, July 17, there will be events on stage in Baker Park, beginning in late afternoon. On Saturday, July 18, there will be speakers, awards, a dinner and other activities at Frederick Community College.

Saturday, July 25, 2015

Centro Hispano's 4th annual fundraiser/festival - from 5-midnight - at the Adamstown Carnival grounds; 2700 Washington Street in Adamstown, MD 21710

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

National Night Out – Will be conducted at several locations in Frederick, TBD.

Saturday, September 12, 2015

In the Street Festival – 10:00am – 6:00pm – Downtown Frederick

Saturday, October 24, 2015

8 am - 3 pm - 8th Annual Frederick Community Health Fair.

It will be held at the Eventplex at the Frederick Fairgrounds. Sponsored by the Asian American Center of Frederick and Frederick Memorial Hospital

X. Sharing

David Kaye – It was a busy month for all of us. He has been busy taking part in events for Veterans.

Pat Fleet – Brought in giveaways that will be used for events for everyone to take one. The new shirts will be ready next week.

Jack Thomas – Thanked everyone. He said he has seen a lot of growth and changes in the HRC over the past years and he was proud that he was a part of it.

Chief Grossman – Thanked Angela Spencer and Tonya Amedon for coming to the graduation.

Judy Hughes – Thanked Lt. Tokarz for inviting her and she feels like Frederick is in good hands.

Georgia McCauley – She is glad to see we can be involved in so many events.

Felicia Turner – Expressed her congratulations to Jack Turner.

Pat Rosensteel – She said she was glad her schedule allowed her to attend the meeting.

Mari Lee – She wanted to attend the Police Academy Graduation but was unable to do so. She said last year was a bad year for her personally but she is so thankful for the coaching that she received. Traumatic grief is like no other and her mission is to help others. She is thankful for an environment that is accepting of others and where everyone knows they count.

Angela Spencer – Thanked everyone for adopting tonight's slate of officers. She is looking forward to the future. In July she will share the state of the HRC. She commended the FPD after the shooting event in June. She spoke about the Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom and commented that freedom is not free.

Tonya Amedon – She thanked everyone for voting favorably on the slate of officers. She said progress takes place out of her comfort zone and she never thought she would be sitting on such a commission much less be the vice chair.

XI. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Minutes were submitted by the Human Relations Department