

MINUTES  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
June 16, 2020 5:30 p.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Members' Term Attendance</u> (mtgs attended-mtgs absent)	<u>End of Current Term of Office</u>
<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Bridget Supple	(11-04)	10/08/21
	Claire Clark	(08-07)	10/08/20
	Theo Williams	(04-02)	10/08/22
	Dr. Jennifer Jackson	(06-00)	10/08/22
	Michael Jasper	(15-00)	10/08/22
	Rev. Brian Kirk	(13-02)	10/08/20
	Rusty Summers	(12-03)	10/08/21
	Terri Lowdon	(10-05)	10/08/20
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT :</b>	Hamilton Henderson	(10-02)	10/08/21
<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Bryan Carter, City Attorney Brianna Moe, Recording Secretary		

**Item #1      Call to Order**

Summers called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Clark – present via video conference, Henderson – absent, Jackson – present, Jasper – present, Kirk – present via video conference, Lowdon – present via video conference, Summers – present, Supple – present, Williams – present via video conference. Quorum is present.

**Item #2      Approval of Minutes**

The Commission unanimously approved minutes for the February 2020 meeting.

ROLL CALL: Jackson – yes, Jasper – yes, Kirk – yes, Summers – abstain, Supple – yes, Williams – yes.

Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion passed.

**Item #4      Public Transportation Fares**

Andy Clements spoke to the Commission about public transportation fares. He discussed the challenges of offering a free transit service, the current fare structure and issues since COVID-19 for the transit system.

At 5:44 p.m. the video conferencing technology disconnected.

At 5:51 p.m. the video conference was reestablished. Clark, Williams, Kirk and Lowden were on.

At 6:08 p.m. Lowden left the meeting.

**Item #3      Outside speaker: Teressa Parks**

Parks spoke about the Black Lives Matter Protests in St. Joseph. She discussed recent protests and related community efforts. She created a Facebook page called “United We Stand St. Joseph” as a platform for issues in St. Joseph.

**Item #5      Old Business**

**Item #5a.      Human Rights Enhancement Grant Program**

Carter stated there is not going to be an appropriation of funds for the Commission during the upcoming fiscal year due to financial challenges and uncertainties. The Commission agreed to discuss an enhancement grant program again when funding is available.

**Item #5b.      Juneteenth planning**

There will only be a lunch this year. Supple asked if the Commission wanted to be a sponsor in the future. Carter will put it on the agenda in March 2021 to consider participation next year. Summers asked if members could attend the lunch for support. Supple stated it was an open event. Some members discussed attending.

**Item #5c.      Inclusion of public accommodation in mediation assistance**

Carter stated the council agreed to have a work session on the topic but the Commission wanted to do some preparation work beforehand. Once the Commission is ready they can schedule it. The topic will remain on July’s agenda.

**Item #5d.      MWSU Subcommittee Report**

Dr. Jackson stated that there was a delay with the Facebook page going live but it is ready. The class created a PDF of designs they created for the Commission. Getting a tent was recommended for future events to provide shade at events. Commission members requested that a tent be purchased with the logo on it. The Commission further requested that personalized business cards for members be ordered with the remaining funds.

**Item #5e.      Related old business**

No related old business.

**Item #6      New Business**

**Item #6a.      Pride Festival Planning**

Rev. Kirk reported he heard MEEC would decide by July 1 if in person gathering would be held this year. Carter stated he can disseminate the information once they decide what they are going to do.

**Item #6b. Sewer User Fees**

Summers stated she was going to take the issue to the City Council and it can be removed from the agenda.

**Item #6c. Related New Business**

Carter has the window clings the Commission purchased in his office if members want to get some to pass out. The commission wants to track who takes a window cling. Carter stated his office would track that.

**Item #7 City Staff Update**

Conversion Therapy Ban Ordinance was first read by the City Council before COVID-19 caused City Council meetings to be virtual. Councilman Myers sponsored the bill and agreed to delay proceeding until the City Council begins having in-person meetings again.

Carter reported that Police Chief Connally offered to do an implicit biased training for Commission members if they were interested that he does for the Department.

Carter stated the Blue Ribbon Committee the Mayor created when he took office decided to have a subcommittee to review police department policies. Dr. Jackson asked who was on the committee because Columbia always has a Human Rights Commission member on those types of committees. Carter stated he could talk to the Mayor about having a Commission member on the committee if anyone is interested.

**Item #8 Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Item #9 Future Agenda Overview**

Carter stated he noted inclusion of public accommodation, pride festival planning, and mediation assistance for next month's agenda.

**Item #10 Adjourn**

Jasper made a motion to adjourn, Dr. Jackson seconded. No members opposed the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Brianna Moe, Recording Secretary (Legal Assistant)