

Human Relations Commission
Informal Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2022 5:00 p.m.

Attendance: Tasha Edens, Anthony Gennaro, Ava Hart, Debbie Ruimerman, and Faith Jackson, Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management

Excused Absence: Ed Ford

Absence: Henry Fernandez, Sanji Lawrence, and Howard Thody

QUORUM: *Yes:* _____ *No:* X

Call to Order: Chairperson Hart called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m. She noted for the record that there was not a quorum present. She said the commission could not conduct business due to lack of quorum. However, they could have a brief conversation.

Public Session: No one from the public was present.

Regular Meeting:

Approval of Agenda: The April 20, 2022 Meeting Agenda could not be approved due to lack of quorum.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The February 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes could not be approved due to lack of quorum.

Old Business: Chairperson Hart moved the discussion to the commission's letter to Councilman Nocera. She indicated that she had gotten feedback on the letter from Commissioner Gennaro and Commissioner Fernandez prior to sending it. She indicated that she got a phone call from Councilman Nocera. Councilman Nocera expressed some regret that the commissioners were having that experience and was sympathetic to their frustrations. However, other than that communication, there has been no further action or suggestions for next steps. Commissioner Gennaro said that Chairperson Hart had done a great job with the letter. The fact that there has been no follow-up action just reaffirms that the Anti-Racism Task Force went about this the wrong way, which is why he has not been supportive of it. Director Jackson said she spoke with Pat Alston of the task force, who indicated that they were moving forward on the Civilian Review Board. Director Jackson advised her that there was a resolution in place indicating that the Anti-Racism Task Force and Public Safety Committee was to work with the Human Relations Commission on this initiative. She also advised her that Chairperson Hart had reached out to the chairpersons of the task force multiple times with limited response. Pat Alston said she was told that the commission didn't want to work with the task force. There was further discussion on the process of this resolution being put forth and the difficulty in communicating with the task force. Director Jackson reiterated that the commission and Chairperson Hart has done their due diligence in reaching out to the Anti-Racism Task Force.

Chairperson Hart moved the discussion to the commission's March meeting, during which they heard from Myra Clark-Siegel and Jay Tulin regarding the International Holocaust Alliance working definition of antisemitism. Myra Clark-Siegel was supposed to send an abbreviated statement to the commission for its endorsement and signature. Chairperson Hart said that she has not yet received a document from them. She said she would follow up with them again.

Chairperson Hart moved the discussion to the update on the new commissioner who would be filling the existing vacancy. Director Jackson explained that Alicia Moody was present in her office. However, she had not yet been appointed to the commission. She expressed interest in serving on the commission. However, at this time, the Common Council needs to appoint her, and then she can get sworn in by the Office of the Mayor. She explained that Alicia Moody served on the City's Affirmative Action Monitoring Committee. She asked Alicia Moody to come on camera and greet the commission members. Alicia Moody introduced herself and said she would share a little more about herself at the meeting next month when more commissioners are present and she's an active member.

New Business:

Review: The commission did not review with attendance.

Announcements:

The next meeting of the commission will be May 18, 2022.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Kasey Maurice,
Administrative Sec. III