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HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

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ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY SERVICES
FEBRUARY 7, 2020
CIVIC CENTER ROOM 301

MINUTES

MEMBERS

Tom Bozikis
Megan Utley
Matt Hoffmann
Mark Weatherwax
Robert Guzzo
Brian Kellems
Ramona Harvey

STAFF

Diane Clements-Boyd
Bonnie Fox

The monthly meeting of the Advisory Board on Disability Services was called to order on the above date by Chairman Matthew Hoffmann.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Requests – There were no requests added to the agenda.

Roll was called with the above named board members and staff in attendance.

The director read the minutes as they were not sent prior to the meeting. Board member Guzzo pointed out that the minutes should have reflected the appointing body instead of appointing board. It was clarified that the Facebook page has to have an administrator to make changes to the page. Board member Weatherwax made a correction that no motorized transportation is allowed on the greenways. Board member Harvey would like to know if that includes power wheel chairs because they are motorized. It was properly moved and seconded to accept the minutes as corrected and members voted unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

No presentations scheduled at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update on additional support for Advisory Board on Disability Services – Board members Weatherwax and Guzzo met with Director Diane Clements-Boyd, Bob Dion and David Wagner in the HRC office on January 23rd. Since Chairman Hoffmann was unable to attend the meeting, Board member Guzzo prepared a short synopsis of the meeting and sent it to Chairman Hoffmann the next day and he read it for the board members. There was a short discussion on (1) the board's interest in adding to HRC's staff to address the needs of the accessibility decal program; (2) David Wagner's need for assistance with a program he is working on and (3) Robert Dion expressed a need for testing around unhealthy discrimination. The consensus was the need might be difficult for one person to handle effectively, and how hard it would be to get the city council to approve a permanent full time person without including the history of the job functions. They discussed the possibility of applying for a grant at which time David Wagner informed the group about the federal work-study program offered by USI and UE. Both board members agreed that this might be ideal to help out with the decal program. If it is recommended to go forward with the work-study, program to assist on the decal program. Mr. Wagner will provide the director with the names of the administrators of the work study program at each school and the director will share that information at the February meeting. A 15-20 hour work week was discussed and the director will need to provide a job description and training for that person. Since HRC will be responsible to provide \$2.00 per hour for the salary the director expressed the need talk to someone regarding this. Board member Guzzo reported that the good news is the board has \$3,000 per year expense budget that will cover more hours if needed. Board member Guzzo asked the director and Board member Weatherwax to make corrections or additions to what was reported. The essence of the meeting is the board would probably not get a full time person to work on the needs of the board but may be able to get a part time person through the work study program and hopefully one who is interested in disability issues and not necessarily one with disabilities.

The director reported that she has not had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Wagner as he has been out of the office, however she did speak with Dr. Dion who reported that this may not come to fruition until the fall of 2020. The director made a clarification that the student would not only work on accessibility issues but HRC matters as deemed necessary. She also reported that the advisory board does not have an annual budget that is allocated from the city or county but has funds in HRC's line item that is rolled over as needed.

Board member Guzzo reported someone is needed who is devoted to the advisory board, and the next step is to find out who to contact and get job description done. The director informed the board that it is not that simple as it will have to be approved by the finance and human resource departments first to find out if the board has the capacity to do this. The director read the ordinance for the board's understanding of what the board is about and what it can do. The director explained that this board was created as an advisory board to provide guidance and offer public forum which is in the ordinance and it is not a policy making board. The board is here to represent people with disabilities. Board member Bozikis added to the director's statement as to what the board is about which is to advise and the board is stuck unless a change is made to the ordinance.

After much discussion on the matter Board member Guzzo expressed he does not feel that HRC takes this board seriously and the board has been talking and doing the same things for three years and the director explained that the changes that are wanted cannot be done at this level. Board member Bozikis offered that the wheels of government move slowly and it's unfortunate but it's reality.

Board member Weatherwax will send the director the letter he proposed and she will email it to the board.

Election of officers was tabled until the next meeting.

Disability Awareness Month – March 2020

The director reported she emailed the building's general manager about keeping the sign up longer and asked for places to hang posters and she has not heard back from him. She reported that she applied for material from the website and the theme is "People not Punchlines" to give out at the Resource Fair. Board member Kellems has reported that he will attend the Resource Fair and Board member Utley will attend also. The office will provide other items to give out as well. Board member Guzzo has material from the Governor's Council to put in the civic center.

Board member Bozikis asked about getting on the Facebook page to highlight issues throughout the month and issues being faced and to make others aware of what is being offered. Director Clements-Boyd encouraged Board member Bozikis to look at the governor's website as they have several options offered and there may be something on that website that may help the board. Chairman Hoffmann will attempt to reach former member Imlay again for administrative information to access the page. The director asked Chairman Hoffmann if he does get the administrative information to advise her and she will share information with board members as to what will be going up. If no one has the time to administer the page the director will have Investigator Mensah from HRC office to get information on the page as he is the administrator for the HRC page. Board member Harvey suggested having multiple people as administrators in case there are issues. The director will reach out to Andy as well to get the administrator access.

OLD BUSINESS:

2020 Priorities –

The director will put Finders on the agenda as a priority to get done in 2020.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board member Kellems will have a power point presentation on Special Olympics next month.

Homeless Connect is April 30th and the director will provide informational items to give out and will have census information available also. She has registered the Advisory Board and she will email a form to each board member to select a time to be available at the table.

It was properly moved and seconded by board members Guzzo and Kellems respectively to adjourn this February meeting of the Advisory Board on Disability Services at 12:20 pm.