



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 27, 2014

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Street-Jones Bldg., Room 400a

1000 East 11th Street, Austin, TX 78702

Chair Paul Rhea called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Paul Rhea, Chair

Sara Clark, Vice Chair

Judy Cortez

Lauren Guilbeaux

Will Krueger

DeWayne Lofton

Human Resources Department Staff Present:

Joya Hayes, Assistant Director, Human Resources Department

Jonathan Babiak, Administrator, Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office (EE/FHO)

Rose Xavier, EE/FHO Staff Liaison

1. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION

John Woodley, citizen, spoke on his difficulties in obtaining public transportation access as a person with disabilities.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 22, 2014 regular meeting were approved on a 6-0 vote with changes; Commissioner Guilbeaux motion, Commissioner Lofton seconded; Commissioner Brenner absent.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Chair Rhea reminded the Commission members that the Human Rights Commission meeting in November may be held at the City Hall Council Chambers, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX 78701 if construction is completed.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion related to Council Resolution No. 20140828-084 requesting the City Manager to receive stakeholder input, process code amendments, and create an implementation plan to require gender-neutral signage for single-occupancy restrooms.
 - i. Vote for the Commission to recommend Council amend City Code to require gender-neutral signage for single-occupancy restrooms was approved unanimously. Commissioner Guilbeaux motion, Commissioner Krueger seconded; Commissioner Brenner absent.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation on behalf of the National Low Income Housing Coalition regarding the United for Homes Initiative.
 - i. Vote for the Commission to recommend Council to include in its federal legislative agenda support for funding for the National Housing Trust Fund was approved unanimously. Commissioner Cortez motion, Commissioner Lofton seconded; Commissioner Brenner absent.
- b. Election of officers for FY 2014 – 15; Sara Clark was elected Chair, and Will Krueger was elected Vice Chair, both by unanimous vote; Commissioner Brenner absent.
- c. Discussion of Commission to prepare for Council action on Boards and Commissions Transition.
 - i. Due to municipal elections, current Boards and Commissions positions will be held over during January through June 2015; new City Council members will appoint replacements in July.
 - ii. Quorum will now be based on the number of appointments seated for the commission.
 - iii. If commissioners want to be reappointed by the new City Council, they will need to reapply by January 6, 2015.

6. STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The status of the Commission's goals and objectives for 2014.
 - i. Austin Affordable Housing - Krueger
 - ii. Transportation Study for Disability Community - Clark
 - iii. Economic Disparities in the African American Community - Lofton
 - iv. APD Racial Profiling – Brenner/Clark
 - v. PARD Congregate Meal Program - Completed
 - vi. Improve internal Commission/EE/FHO processes and procedures.
- b. Plans and strategies for meeting those goals and objectives.

7. STAFF BRIEFING

- a. City Council passed the Source of Income resolution on first reading on October 2, 2014.
 - i. Amendments were added to the resolution to change the language to “regular” income and limit enforcement to complexes with 4 or more units.
 - a. Gambling winnings would be considered an irregular income payment.
 - ii. Second and third reading is currently scheduled for November 6th.
- b. Council adopted a resolution to request draft ordinance to add retaliation to the public accommodations city ordinance.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Presentations from Public Works Dept. regarding sidewalk accessibility in the city.
- b. Presentation from Austin Transportation regarding audible crosswalks for the blind population.
- c. Municipal ID Card – Stakeholder meeting will be held on November 3, 2014.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm without objection.