

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2022 - 3:30 pm.

Members Present	Members Absent
Stacy Cole	Carmela Hill
Casey Bakhsh	Amanda Peregrina
Drew France	Kim Teehee
Tia Juby	
Anthony Meadows	
Larissa McNeil	
Joshua Stark	
Shannon Starr	
Andrea Walker	

I. Call to Order and Introductions

- a. Meeting called to order at 3:31 pm by Chairwoman Juby
- b. Chairwoman Juby Introduces Commissioner Anthony Meadows to the Commission.
 - i. Commissioner Meadows shares that he serves as the Deputy Sports Coordinator for the Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges and has served as a social worker for the last 15 years. He's a native Tulsan, attended Booker T. Washington and McClain Highschool, and received his bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University.

II. Compassionate Tulsa Awards Presentation

- a. Vickie Langston, Chair of Compassionate Tulsa, announces that the committee will be honoring Kent Powers and Bob Sandborn – the Coordinator and Co-founder of the Tuesday Morning Miracle Group for the October Compassionate Tulsan of the month.
 - i. The Tuesday Morning Miracle Group consists of over 142 retired volunteers helping to build homes in conjunction with the Green country habitat for humanity program. Since the organization was established, volunteers have helped build and remodel 93 houses and helped sponsor 40. In addition, the group has created cabinets, posts, fencing, etc. The Tuesday Morning Miracle Group will celebrate 30 years of helping build homes this year.
- b. Commissioner France thanks the recipients, and Habitat for Humanity for their essential work, especially in light of the housing crisis Tulsa is experiencing with unhoused individuals.

III. Approval of September Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairwoman Juby requests a motion to approve the minutes
 - i. Commissioner Cole makes a motion
 - ii. Commissioner Starr seconds
 - iii. Minutes approved

IV. Chair's Report

- a. Chairwoman Juby reports:

- b. The Commission's strategic meeting will occur on either November 12th or 19th. An email update will be sent to solidify the date.
- c. The City recently passed an ordinance regarding where people can panhandle, a requirement to wear a visibility vest if panhandling, and age requirements to panhandle. She raises concerns about where the vests are coming from and asks the Commission if anyone has received insight.
 - i. Commissioner Cole asks about the intent of the vest.
 - ii. Commissioner Juby replies that the intent stated was for public safety. The vests are an initiative instituted in other cities, where it was reported successful.
- d. Commissioner Juby reports that it will be a harsh winter this year, and there is concern about the amount of housing and facilities available for unhoused populations. Last year there were plans for this that involved working with hotels. However, there has been no discussion about hotels being available this year.
- e. Commissioner France asks about the appropriate purpose of this body and how this Commission can be of assistance. He expresses that he wants to be careful not to have an opinion on the City's decisions. He wants the Commission to find ways to construct ideas and conversations around the decisions.
 - i. Commissioner Bakhsh asks if a good next step would be inviting some experts/subject matter experts into the Commission to discuss what's happening. She offers to invite Travis Hulse to the Commission to examine the housing plan.
 - ii. Commissioner Juby proposes inviting the city councilor who proposed the ordinance
 - iii. Commissioner Walker says if the Commission is supposed to investigate and advocate and make a note of services not understood or known about, then the Commission should find a way to discuss this and help the City to be proactive.
 - iv. Commissioner Starr proposes a comprehensive resource list that the Commission uses to educate the public on what's being initiated by the City regarding Human Rights and what resources are available.
 - 1. Commissioner Cole agrees and believes that the value of this Commission is to educate.
 - v. Commissioner France wants the Commission to synthesize complex information, create relationships and hold people accountable for where they are and what they're not doing.
- f. Commissioner Juby offers to explore guest speakers to invite to further educate the Commission moving forward.
 - i. Commissioner Walker proposes the Commission discuss this further in strategy sessions.
- g. Commissioner Juby states that she would also like to work on expanding the role of the Human Rights Commission and letting citizens know that this Commission exists as a resource.

V. Standing Committee Reports:

a. Special Events Committee

- i. Commissioner France reports that the special events committee will honor International Human Rights Day by launching the inaugural Tulsa humanitarian of the year award at a special meeting in the middle of December. The committee is still working out the details.

1. Commissioner Walker asks if the Commission will be doing nominations this year
 - a. Commissioner Juby shares that the committee will be selecting the nominee this year and will work on expanding nominations to the entire Commission moving forward.
 - b. Commissioner France offers that he wants to make the nomination process as uncomplicated as possible and receive a nomination from each HRC Commissioner moving forward.
- b. Fair Housing Committee**
 - i. Commissioner Bakhsh reports:
 1. The committee met on September 14, where the Day Center spoke on the need for adequate housing.
 2. The committee participated in a workshop with over 75 participants, including landlords, tenants, and housing advocates.
 3. The committee will meet this Wednesday and have guest speakers scheduled for October and November.
 4. The committee is focused on gathering information for the City and updating them on housing needs not being addressed.
 - c. Community Relations Committee**
 - i. Commissioner Walker reports that the committee met and discussed combining with compassionate Tulsa since there is alignment within the objectives. They're interested in collaborating/maintaining distinction and discussed being involved in community events – the first being the Veterans Day Parade.
 - d. Compassionate Tulsa Committee**
 - i. See section II.

VI. Title 5 Commission Reports:

- a. The Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission**
 - i. No report
- b. Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women**
 - i. No report
- c. The Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission**
 - i. Commissioner McNeil reports that the Commission recently attended a retreat and will be rebranding its committees to better align with the Commission's responsibilities and the community's needs.
- d. The Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic /Latinx Affairs Commission**
 - i. No report

VII. Old Business

- a. None**

VIII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Kyra Carby serves as the new community engagement manager for GGGP, introduces herself to the Commission, and offers future collaboration/support on behalf of her organization.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Juby requests a motion to adjourn
 - i. Commissioner Starr makes the motion
 - ii. Commissioner Bakhsh seconds
 - iii. Meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm