

Minutes
West Lafayette Human Relations Commission
April 30, 2012
City Hall

In attendance: Kim Reisman, Wei Hong, Vidya Iyer, Susan Thomas, Laura Blackburn, Charlie Shook, Zarjon Baha
(no members of public in attendance)

I. Regular Business

- a) Existence of quorum determined and meeting called to order - 7:05 PM
- b) Agenda amended to add new business (Thomas, Blackburn. Approved)
- c) Feb 12th minutes amended to change date of next meeting to April 30th, and to remove name of candidate who was met with. Amended minutes approved.
- d) Klingerman's resignation recognized; his efforts recognized

II. Continuing Business

- a) Diversity Roundtable Report (Hong) - Wei has been attending Diversity Roundtable meetings. Recently, they added international students and Wei personally had a lot to offer. They talked a lot about conversation circles and about moving the rating of Lafayette from "good" to "great" - a longterm goal. Goal is to make Lafayette a welcoming place for all people. Future topics include hate crimes at Purdue and what people can do, mental health, and violence against women. Wei to go out of country soon. Phil Subeck to take over attending meetings from June.
- b) Nominating Committee Report (Iyer) - The nominating committee met Yaman Kaakeh, who grew up in WL and now works at Purdue. Committee reports that she is young, very dynamic, refreshing, very connected with the student population, and is adviser for many student groups on campus. Committee is recommending her name be forwarded to the Mayor. Her potential appointment will fill Zarjon's imminent resignation. Now, must look for people to replace Trent Klingerman.
- c) Internal Workshop Update (Charlie) - Commission created in 1969 as a result of student protest on campus. It has been collectively agreed that it would be good to learn about history of commission. Vidhya - We could make it so it's open to community too. Bob Riley law firm could come and present for us. Blackburn- I'd still have city attorney office involved. Charlie - Would be easier to use city attorney, but Bob can still come speak. Idea proposed to include city council in the workshop. Charlie suggests holding the workshop either before or after a city council meeting. Vidhya - Should we publicize it? Charlie - Workshop should be lively and interesting, but also technical. It can include commission, diversity round table, Lafayette HRC, city council, police, anyone who reports directly to mayor, and public. Vidhya - A good group to include would be pastors/religious leaders around community. Laura - We should invite university officials and the Diversity Office at Purdue. Susan, Phil, Eric will spearhead creating the curriculum, but everyone will be involved.
- d) Increase Role of HRC in Community (Charlie) - Workshop can be used to educate ourselves and publicize what we do to community. Kim - We can educate citizens by putting something in the monthly city newsletter and/or have a regular series. Another

suggestion is to make our portion of the city website easier to understand. Kim to take leadership with articles for newsletters. Another place to educate is various religious places and community centers. Laura - Another place to educate is at summer festivals, especially OutFest on August 3rd, Global Fest, and Hanna Fest. Laura to take lead in booths at festivals; coordinate with other HRCs. Reisman to call to find where we are in rotation of graphics. Vidhya to talk to local schools about holding a youth art contest for new posters. Community Foundation Descretionary Grants brought up as possible source of funds for posters (cflaf.org).

e) Online Complaint Form Update - Z. Williams has something created that doesn't require a notary. Goal is to make people feel comfortable making a complaint without coming to City Hall. There's no way around the signature. There is difference between inquiry (what the online form would be) and the actual complaint. So, people would file an inquiry online and then be contacted by HRC later to come in and actually sign the official complaint. There needs to be a visible difference between contact/inquiry form and the complaint form. It is good for the city to know about the incident even if formal complaint is not made. Tell mayor's office how to guide people on how to fill the form. The form should say that the complaint is not official unless they come in and sign it, and if they don't it will just be filed as an incident. They will just have to sign in front of the office.

f) Mayor's Youth Council- Laura and Neha to discuss potential dates for Laura to come to speak to the group.

g) Open Dialogue With Purdue - Need to ask Mayor about jurisdiction over Purdue. Right now, incidents are dealt with as violation of student conduct. If it's off campus, they direct it back to us. If annexation happens, Purdue is in city limits. Currently, they have teams that respond to everything.

III. New Business

a) Consider participating in a Lafayette Realtor Equal Opportunity and Diversity Luncheon (Charlie) - This would be a great way for the HRC to let the audience know we exist. 11:30 am on May 23rd. Meeting to organize it on 11:30 on May 2nd at Board of Realtors office 1415 Union St. Vidhya to go to both. Charlie will be there, but won't be there in the capacity of the HRC.

b) New Assistant Secretary Needed - West Lafayette High School sophomore Abbee Westbrook is nominated. Neha to tell her to call Vidhya.

c) Annexation of Purdue by city brought up. Attorney/mayor to be asked about our jurisdiction over campus.

IV. Adjourn

a) Reisman, Hong, adjourn

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 20th, 2013 at 7:00 pm at City Hall