

MINUTES OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

A regular session of the Human Relations Commission was held at 6:15 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall.

Members Attending: Block, Feltner, Holycross, Keller, Major, Villalobos.

Presiding Officer: Chairman Marvin Major, Sr.

Others Attending: City Staff
Citizens

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting commenced at 6:22 p.m. by the Chairman's call to order.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Major, seconded by Ms. Holycross, the January 20, 2022 minutes were approved by the Commission unanimously, having no corrections or additions to these minutes.

DRAFT REVISED OPERATING GUIDELINES: Ms. Holycross suggested that the bylaws include language assigning a member of the Commission to serve on the Juneteenth Committee. The Juneteenth Committee has requested that the HRC assign a member to serve on the Juneteenth Committee, and has included language pertaining to that assignment in their bylaws. Mr. Major agreed that the assignment to the Juneteenth committee should be included in the Commissions bylaws. The Commission discussed the bylaws' definition of participation in the Commission. Ms. Holycross asked whether the requirement of regular meeting attendance went far enough, and suggested a requirement pertaining to participation in individual initiatives. Mr. Major suggested the discussion be tabled until the Commission had the opportunity to meet with the Director of Public Service and Safety and the Mayor, along with Management Analyst Salome Hekate, for clarifying questions. Mr. Feltner asked whether the proposed changes could be adopted and amended after that meeting. Ms. Holycross moved to table the discussion of operating guidelines, and the motion was approved unanimously.

HISTORICAL MARKERS AND MAP UPDATE: Ms. Holycross shared that four draft biographies for two historical signs are completed, and that design work would be the next stop toward completion. The group working on the signs is considering a design similar to WACO's tableau signage placed near City Hall. Ms. Holycross said that the group is considering application for the Ohio Historical Markers program, administered by the Local History Services Department of Ohio History Connection, to create a historical marker about the 54th and 55th Regiments in the Civil War. Mr. Holycross shared draft text for the marker, created in conjunction with local historians. Currently, no historical markers exist that tell the story of Ohio's Black soldiers in the Civil War. A sponsor, usually a non-profit or municipality, is needed to apply for the Ohio History Connection program, and funding is needed for the sign. Total costs are dependent upon artwork and other factors. Ms. Holycross thought the total cost could be around \$7,000, and stated that she hoped the City would see the cost as an investment in historical education, as worthwhile as economic development. Mr. Major suggested unmarked graves in Riverside Cemetery as another possible location for a marker or sign. The next meeting with historians will be April 6.

MEMBER COMMENTS: Ms. Holycross provided an update on the Bridges Out of Poverty tactical communication training with Miami County Sheriff's Office. That program is a collaboration between Partners in Hope and local law enforcement agencies. Troy Police and Miami County Sheriff's Office have worked together to establish trainings for officers. Ms. Holycross shared that she has been asked to attend the Miami County Law Enforcement Awards on April 7.

Mr. Keller commented that facilitating collaboration between groups, creating programs like Bridges out of Poverty or the historical sign initiative, is an important aspect of the HRC. He shared that he sees the HRC as an organization that brings together groups who can further carry on local initiatives.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Deedee Wissman, citizen of Troy and affiliated with organization Move to Amend, introduced herself and Paula Hemerick, also with Move to Amend. She stated that Move to Amend to gather people interested in the issue of corporate personhood and money in politics. Mr. Major thanked both Ms. Wissman and Ms. Hemerick for attending.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.