

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 with Vice Chairman Keller presiding.

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

Presiding Officer: Vice Chairman Jon Keller

Others Attending: City Staff
Citizens

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting commenced at 6:20 p.m. by the Vice Chairman's call to order.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Severt, seconded by Ms. Holycross, the March 17, 2022 minutes were approved by the Commission unanimously, having no corrections or additions to these minutes.

JUNETEENTH UPDATE: Ms. Holycross asked Tre Heflin-King, Chairman of the Juneteenth Committee, to provide an update regarding the 2022 Juneteenth celebration. Mr. Heflin-King thanked everyone who had participated in planning and executing the 2022 Juneteenth events and stated that "An Evening with Ruby Bridges: A Virtual Fireside Chat" and the Juneteenth celebration at McKaig and Race Park went well; the evening with Ruby Bridges had 230 attendees; the celebration at the park had good turnout; received feedback overall was positive; however, the Juneteenth Committee had identified a few items that would need to be handled differently next year. Mr. Heflin-King added that a planning process for the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration would commence soon.

Mr. Severt thanked Hobart Brothers LLC for bringing Ruby Bridges' event to Troy. He added that the Juneteenth celebration went well, and the band that performed at McKaig and Race Park was an excellent choice for the event.

Mr. Keller expressed his appreciation of the Juneteenth Team's work in planning the event and allowing the HRC to set up a booth at the park to increase awareness regarding the Troy Human Relations Commission.

HISTORICAL MARKERS UPDATE: Ms. Holycross shared that the application for an Ohio Historical Marker for the Black Civil War soldiers buried at the Riverside Cemetery was denied due to the lack of supporting materials and a detailed statement. Ms. Holycross added that the HRC would consult with the local historians to inquire if pursuing resubmittal of the application would be worthwhile.

Ms. Holycross mentioned that two signs honoring local African American community leaders would be shipped on August 10, 2022; the City staff would place the signs at McKaig and Race Park; and that an unveiling ceremony would be planned and announced later in autumn.

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR IDEAS: Ms. Holycross stated that the self-guided walking tour map idea had not been pursued yet as the initial plan was to set the historical signs first and then incorporate them in the walking tour map.

I.D.E.A. TROY INTRODUCTION: Tre Heflin-King stated that Inclusion, Diversity, Equity Advocates Troy (I.D.E.A. Troy) is a public partnership of several Troy community organizations - Juneteenth Troy Team, MLK Team, Troy Freedom Chasers Team, and Diversity Awareness Team. The group is a fund of The Troy Foundation; it was formed in 2021 to take on the organization and logistics of Juneteenth events and to promote cultural awareness in the community. Since its establishment, the group's activities have grown, and new board members are actively sought. Additionally, per the I.D.E.A. Troy Operating Guidelines, one ad hoc board member seat is held for a representative of the City of Troy. An ad hoc member could be an employee of the City or a member of the Troy Human Relations Commission. If the HRC wishes to support the group, the Commission has an option to send a representative to the meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Brad Boehringer, 105 Crestwood Drive, thanked the HRC and I.D.E.A. Troy for supporting the Juneteenth celebration in the community and expressed his interest in participating in next year's celebration. Mr. Boehringer said he would like to dress as General Gordon Granger and read General Order No. 3 at the Juneteenth event. He elaborated on the importance of General Order No.3 in the Juneteenth

celebration and added that he had proposed his idea to Ms. Holycross. Ms. Holycross and Mr. Severt advised Mr. Boehringer that the decision on his participation in the event was not the HRC's decision to make and suggested speaking with the Chairman of the Juneteenth Team. Mr. Boehringer responded that he intended to share the information with the HRC members and that he planned on contacting the Juneteenth Team.

Mr. Boehringer asked the Commission members if they had considered his advice to meet with residents in the community setting to solicit their input. Ms. Holycross responded that when she converses with the community members, she always asks if they are aware of the existence of the Troy Human Relations Commission and its responsibilities. Ms. Holycross added that based on her interactions, there is a need to spread awareness about the HRC and the purpose it serves. Mr. Block noted that he had received questions regarding Juneteenth celebrations and educated the inquirer about the celebration's meaning and importance and how it helps bring the community together rather than separating them. Mr. Boehringer asked the HRC to ponder on an idea of a county-wide Juneteenth celebration.

MEMBER COMMENTS: Mr. Keller thanked the Troy Police for their service and monthly reports that help to keep the community members informed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.