



Agenda

Human Rights Commission

October 1, 2020 | 6:30 p.m. | Zoom

Due to the temporary closure of public meetings at City Hall because of COVID-19, persons interested in attending the Human Rights Commission meeting via Zoom must email Commissioner Joel Logue at joelklogue@gmail.com prior to 12:00 p.m.(noon) on Thursday, October 1, 2020 to reserve a meeting invitation.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes – Approval of the September 3, 2020 meeting minutes

Public Comment (3 minutes only)

Old Business

- Proposed Changes to the Municipal City Code (Section 40.155-40.159)
- Proposed Changes to the Commission By-Laws

New Business

- Report of Sub-Committees
- Quincy Police Department Annual Report
- Late Additions

Commissioner's Comments

Adjournment

The Human Rights Commission works to provide leadership and advocacy to secure, protect, and promote human rights for all people. The Commission values the dignity of all human beings regardless of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identification, marital status, parental status, mental or physical disability, source of income, military status, military discharge status or any other protected status.



Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2020

Roll Call

Present: Katie Awerkamp, Tiria Humphrey, Kris Kutcher, Joel Logue, Lisa Machold, Mary Lou McLaughlin, Sue Rush, Macy Ferguson-Smith, Chris Taylor, Cecil Weathers, Dennis Williams

Absent: Zach Bemis (E), Kate Daniels (E), Dr. Christine Tracy, Pam Wallace (E)

Guests: Joseph Principe, J.J. Magliocco, Mark Philpott, Joyce Waterkotte, Kathleen Helsabeck, Carrie

Approval of Minutes

Mary Lou McLaughlin asked the record show that Joel Logue was chair in Macy Ferguson-Smith's absence. She would like that the minutes reflect the Commission's budget is \$1028. McLaughlin clarified that her Commissioner's comment was a thank you to the public that attended the meeting because it shows support for the Commission.

Cecil Weathers, seconded by Dennis Williams, moved that the minutes from the August 6, 2020, meeting be approved as amended. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Joseph Principe stated that he had nothing to add at this time.

Kathleen Helsabeck, Director of the Quincy Public Library, gave an update on the library. September is Public Library Card Sign-up Month. There currently is not any in-person programming at the library. All programming is taking place via Facebook live and book club will start via Zoom. She invited interested Commissioners to make public presentations on topics of their choice. Chris Taylor asked if the QPL had any specific needs for programming that they are not currently able to offer. Helsabeck stated suggestions are always welcome.

Carrie stated the YMCA is hosting a golf fundraiser for children who are unable to pay membership dues. She suggested the Commission donate a basket for raffle to show the Commission's support. Several members volunteered to contribute.

New Business

Election of Secretary

Katie Awerkamp asked that Macy explain the role of the Commission secretary. Sue Rush expressed interest in taking minutes when meetings are in person. Conte stated that he will take minutes during this meeting but the new secretary will be responsible for the next meeting. Williams stated the term is for one year. Kris Kutcher volunteered to be secretary.

Action: Motion to elect Kris Kutcher secretary of the Human Rights Commission.

Motion: Williams Second: Logue Motion Carried

Changes to Municipal Code

Logue reported the sub-committee has been discussing the changes and will send proposed revisions out a week prior to the October meeting. Weathers asked what type of changes will be made. Ferguson-Smith stated that the current code is out dated and a lot of the language needs to be updated to reflect current times.

By-Laws Committee

Ferguson-Smith reported that the sub-committee will send proposed revisions out prior to the October meeting. She stated the by-laws and Municipal Code both require a lot of work and input will be needed.

Report of Sub Committees

Education: Williams stated that with the start of school the committee has not yet had the opportunity to meet with the schools.

Public Relations: No report

Community Action: No report

Ferguson-Smith stated that a chair is still needed for the Public Relations Committee. If Commissioners have anyone interested in those committees please send suggestions to her prior to September 18th. McLaughlin expressed interest in the Education Committee. Kutcher asked what the Community Action Sub-Committee does. Ferguson-Smith stated that it has been difficult to get started. The need in the community is great and the committee desires to get the public involved. Logue stated that the committee should focus on the statistics and find areas where improvements can be made. Kutcher expressed interest in the Community Action Sub-Committee. Taylor asked about the Public Relations Sub-Committee. Ferguson-Smith stated that the sub-committee chair is a mouth piece for the Commission. They are in constant talks with people in the community to see how the Commission can become more involved. Taylor volunteered for the Public Relations Sub-Committee.

Alderman Interaction with Constituent

The incident with Alderman Holtschlag was discussed at the last meeting. Logue has talked to Alderman Holtschlag, Mayor Moore and the City Clerk's Office concerning the incident and the response at the City Council meeting. The City was taken off guard and responses

were not intentional. Logue stated that no one has been banned from any City meetings and everyone is welcome once the meetings are open to public. McLaughlin inquired about a formal form for the public to submit with complaints and comments. Logue stated it will be addressed in Late Additions. Logue added that members of the public that have issues with City officials should file a complaint with the Commission. Taylor inquired if the Alderman had suggestions on how individuals who are passionate about a topic should approach the Aldermen. Logue state the HRC can be a buffer and facilitate the conversation. Machold asked if Alderman Holtschlag showed remorse over the incident. Logue feels there is remorse but also a lot of confusion as the constituent's comments should have been directed towards someone else.

Meeting with Chief Copley

Williams and Ferguson-Smith had a discussion with Chief Copley about the video that involved the interaction between a man wanting to file compliant and a police officer. The incident has been resolved and Copley did not give much detail. The individual received the video recording as part of the agreement. Copley stated he feels both parties involved in the incident were in the wrong. He stated confidential papers were present on the desk while the individual was filming. Copley stated the papers should not have been there and that could have prevented the incident from escalating. The officer and the individual had a previous encounter that contributed to the tension. There currently is not standard for separating a service animal from its owner. Copley is working on a policy as it is a gray area. The Commission feels the Police Department needs to educate the officers on the role of service animals. Kutcher stated he will contact members of the Humane Society to see if they are interested in participating in a discussion about the role of service animals with the City.

They also discussed community policing within the Quincy community and what his department does. Ferguson-Smith stated that the Police Department has a considerable amount of diversity within the department. They discussed the department's involvement in the community.

Late Additions

Service Animals – Commission recommends the Mayor and City Council implement a policy on how the QPD and other City departments interact with service animals.

Motion: Logue Second: Machold Motion Carried

Open Meetings Act – Logue sent a link to the Attorney General's website for Open Meetings Act training to all Commissioners. He encouraged members to complete the training and send their certificate of completion to Ferguson-Smith prior to the October meeting.

Complaint Form – The Commission recommends the digitalization of the HRC compliant form for public access and submission.

Motion: Taylor Second: Kutcher Motion Carried

Incident Involving QU Student and Police Officer - There recently was an incident involving a young African-American QU student and a QPD officer. The student stopped a student that was wearing a hoodie and carrying a bag while walking down the street, none of which warrant the student being stopped. QU and QPD have an agreement that a QU student cannot be questioned without QU representation. Logue would like to find out the agreement between QPD and QU and why this person was stopped.

Action: Commission will look into the incident (Logue and Tracy) and inquire about the QU's policy.

Motion: Taylor Second: Weathers Motion Carried

Commissioners' Comments

Ferguson-Smith thanked everyone for attending and applauded the Commissioners on the August meeting. Ferguson-Smith asked the Commissioners to check the City's website to verify that their contact information is correct.

Weathers thanked everyone for attending. He stated Copley has presented the QPD annual report in the past. He would like for the Chief to attend a future meeting and present the annual report. Williams and Weathers will contact Chief Copley.

Williams thanked everyone for attending. He feels the meetings are going well and that the group is accomplishing some goals.

Kutcher thanked everyone for letting him be involved in the Commission and is appreciative of the opportunity to serve.

Taylor thanked the Commission for allowing the public to attend via Zoom. He would like to see the City Council use a similar format that allows public to speak upon request instead of summarized statements being read to the Council. Ferguson-Smith encouraged Taylor to initiate the conversation with the City.

McLaughlin thanked Joel for initiating the Zoom meeting and Ferguson-Smith for chairing the Commission. She stated the Commission is very diverse and as an immigrant she is humbled to be part of the Commission.

Machold is excited to be part of the Education Sub-Committee and to have the opportunity to educate the community.

Rush thanked Logue for coordinating the Zoom meeting and hopes the Commission moves forward with all the topics discussed at this meeting.

Humphrey is happy she was able to attend the meeting and would like to join the Community Action Sub-Committee.

Awerkamp discussed the City's capability to allow the public to comment during the City Council Zoom meetings. She will ask the City's IT Department if this is possible. McLaughlin states it is possible and wishes the City would be more creative in that aspect.

Logue discussed the Zoom meetings further. He stated that he has been pushing for the City Council meetings to be accessible to the community for several years. He would like for another Commissioner to set-up a Zoom account so that someone else can host a Zoom meeting in case he is unavailable to.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 on a motion by Cecil Weathers, seconded by Kris Kutcher.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Conte, P.E.
Secretary Pro-tem