

Frankfort Human Rights Commission
July 6, 2021, 5:00 p.m.
City Hall

Meeting was called to order at 5:12 p.m. by Chairman Bob Padgett. Present were Bob Padgett, Jason Hart, Singer Buchanan, and Lisa Gabbard; Kate Mueller joined via phone. Fairness Officer Dan Egbers was also present.

Minutes from the February 2020 meeting were approved. Motion was made by Jason Hart and seconded by Singer Buchanan, with all members voting in favor of approval.

Fairness Officer Dan Egbers discussed two current cases. One involves a complainant who is on military leave, so that case is on hold. The complainant will contact Chermie Maxwell, City Clerk, upon his return. The second case regarding the American Legion has been heard and the finding was that the testimony of both Complainants was completely credible with respect to their claims they were verbally abused and treated in a discriminatory manner because they are African-Americans.

However, the Conclusions of Law determined the American Legion did not have the threshold number of employees to confer jurisdiction on the Commission to act. Further, there was no evidence offered to dispute the Respondent's claim it is a private club, exempt from the definition of a Place of Public Accommodation. Therefore, the discrimination claims of both of the Claimants, however sincere and founded in fact, must fail.

The paperwork with findings will be mailed and parties will have 10 days to reply. Unless an exception is filed, the matter will be resolved, and final paperwork will be available to the Commission at the August meeting.

Dan Egbers informed the Commission that he will resign as Fairness Officer as soon as his replacement can be found and appointed by the mayor. The Commission members thanked Dan sincerely for his wonderful work and service to Frankfort.

In Old Business, Bob indicated that he is still working to find folks who might be interested in joining the Commission. He has reached out to the Frankfort Islamic Center on Facebook, but none of those people live in the city limits.

Bob says that the Commission will prepare an annual report for 2021.

In New Business, discussion was held around the need for a new Fairness Officer, and the Commission will recommend the appointment of current new member Jason Hart, as he is an attorney, based on a motion by Singer Buchanan and seconded by Lisa Gabbard.

If Jason is approved for the position by the mayor, there will again be a vacancy on the Commission due to the recent resignation of Christina Libby. Yolanda Davis with the Frankfort Immigration Assistance Network is interested and will complete an application. At our August meeting, we will discuss another potential member who has expressed interest. It is our wish to create better diversity on the Commission.

Bob indicated that members may begin taking on tasks such as updating FHRC's info on the city website; creating/improving social media pages; updating city email addresses for members; assisting with end-of-year report; and public events.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Singer Buchanan made the motion to adjourn at 6:06 p.m., and all voted in favor.