

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Bob Padgett. Present were Bob Padgett, Katima Smith-Willis, Lisa Gabbard, and Singer Buchanan (virtual attendance). Fairness Officer Jason Hart was also present.

No guests were present.

Minutes from the September 2021 meeting were approved. The motion to approve was made by Katima Smith-Willis and seconded by Singer Buchanan, with all members voting in favor of approval.

Jason Hart, Fairness Officer, brought up the pending case from a complainant who is currently out of the country. Jason will reach out to Dan Egbers, former Fairness Officer, for details on the case.

Discussion was held around a new complaint that has been received regarding housing discrimination. Jason will acknowledge receipt of the complaint with a formal response within the required timeframe. He will also reach out to the respondent, a local rental property company, and encourage communication with the complainant. The Commission hopes to act as mediators in the situation. He will keep the Commission apprised of any developments going forward.

There were no Committee Reports.

In Old Business, Lisa Gabbard will create a small number of HRC business cards for Katima Smith-Willis to provide to interested persons at the upcoming Ky. State University homecoming parade. Lisa will create a generic version and a version with Katima's name included. She will also bring these drafts to the next meeting for input.

Bob indicated that he will work with the city's IT person to update the Commission's page on the city website, links to forms, and possibly Commission member emails. The viability of member emails is still unresolved.

It was decided that an election of a Vice-Chairperson would be held during a meeting when there could be more members present.

In New Business, Bob suggested that the Commission begin to have a presence on social media. He asked members to consider what we want or need to do and plan to talk about it in the next couple of months. Katima suggested she and Katherine would work together on some ideas.

Bob told the Commission that member Yolanda Diaz, who was not present, had asked that we consider having our December meeting in a setting outside of City Hall, and perhaps have additional time to socialize among members.

Bob discussed with the group a letter from community member Ed Powe to new City Manager Laura Hagg. Bob plans to meet with Ms. Hagg to discuss a budget for brochures, our need for some administrative assistance, activities the Commission could do or be involved with, and to let her know that we can help with some of the topics Mr. Powe raised in his letter.

The Commission discussed the idea of holding a training for city employees and the possibility of holding a city-wide event around the issue of fair housing.

In Upcoming Events, Katima indicated she would be attending the Ky. State University Homecoming Parade on Saturday morning and would have HRC flyers on hand to pass out, as well as the cards Lisa will create for her.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. Singer Buchanan made the motion to adjourn at 6:08 p.m. with a second from Katima Smith-Willis, and all voted in favor.