

Commission on Citizens' Rights and Community Relations (CCRCR)
Minutes of CCRCR meeting
Wednesday, June 22, 2016
5:05 pm
CCR&CR Conference Room – 13th Floor City Hall

Commission members present:

David Granville, Barbara Klobberdanz, John Calvin Davis, Zaw Win, Gary Wilson, Esq.

Staff

Richard J. Morrisroe, Esq., Executive Director
Carolyn E. Manney, Assistant Director

Commissioners Excused:

Rev. Kenneth Simmons, Sheila Wallace and Sherrill Colston

Vice-Chair Granville turned to the agenda (see attached) and deferred approval of minutes for March, April and May, as the Commission lacked a quorum to conduct official business.

Next, we continued the meeting unofficially, Assistant Director Carolyn E. Manney opened the meeting informing the Commission that no new complaints had been were filed. ED Morrisroe stated that he received a couple last week; however, follow up is needed on his part. Further discussion will be held at future meetings regarding this matter.

C. Manney will continue to monitor employment applications to maintain Ban the Box due diligence. There were no changes for the month of June. Further discussion will be held at future meetings regarding this matter.

C. Manney presented a status update form as part of her report which was requested at the last meeting. This form will allow the Commission to stay abreast with complaints as they are being filed. It was suggested by G. Wilson that a brief description of what the complaint is about should be added to the form. C. Davis also agreed that would be helpful. C. Manney will make changes to the form to reflect suggested information.

C. Davis suggested that the status update form could be sent electronically in a shared format which would be a more efficient way to stay abreast with the status of complaints as they are being filed.

Next, discussion ensued by ED Morrisroe regarding his outreach efforts. ED Morrisroe met with former Commission member Bill Covington and plans to meet with all current members to get some history as to how the Commission has operated in the past and also to establish some new practices. ED Morrisroe will be meeting with all current members in a month or so to get a sense of how members would like to participate going forward. Further discussion is needed with regards to the Commission's 2016 goals.

Next, discussion ensued by ED Morrisroe giving an overview regarding a meeting with individuals from the Partnership of Public Good (PPG) held on May 26, 2016. The ultimate goal of the PPG is to incorporate an International Human Rights framework into the American realm which has traditionally focused more on Civil Rights for Commissions like ours throughout the country. They would like to augment powers, broaden the scope, have enforcement capabilities, and address issue of discrimination to include monitoring city hall departments to ensure all citizens are receiving the same service or access to those services. However, some of the things they would like the Commission to participate in are being addressed by other agencies. Please see attached information obtained from that meeting. Further discussion will be held at future meetings on this subject

G. Wilson joined the meeting at 5:24 pm.

Next discussion ensued led by ED Morrisroe updating the Commission on how the presentations went during the Mayor Summer Internship Orientations. The presentations entailed the law behind police stops and bullying. We discussed and enacted the right and wrong ways citizens and law enforcement officials might respond or assumptions which can lead to misconduct from both parties. We also focused on participating behaviors that encourage bullying and being accountable for the roles individuals might play. The role playing and acting out the do's and don'ts were popular among the youth.

We received positive feedback from the presentations and have since been invited to present a longer presentation on July 19th during the Mayor's Summer Internship Leadership Program. At which time we will further explore the law behind police stops, participating behaviors one might contribute to bullying and age appropriate diversity concerns.

Next, Vice-Chair Granville asked that the agendas reflect the dates of previous Commission meetings.

Vice-Chair Granville tabled the meeting minutes for approval until the next meeting. At that time members will have had an opportunity to review previous meeting minutes. C. Davis agreed that meetings could be approved at the next meeting. B. Kloberdanz

reiterated the importance of receiving the meeting minutes prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Next, C. Davis and G. Wilson suggested a targeted approach such as taking the language from the charter and the goals and aligning them with the functioning of each committee. C. Davis, B. Kloberdanz and Vice-Chair Granville volunteered to assist with that process. Further discussion will be discussed on this matter.

Next, G. Wilson had a question from the agenda regarding the expectations as to how the Commission plans to participate with Cultural Events throughout the City of Buffalo. ED Morrisroe stated events that we have missed thus far. We will prepare for next year. But going forward the Commission has plans to participate in community events. ED Morrisroe suggested possibly purchasing T-shirts that can be worn during parades and C. Davis suggested an informational table. Further discussion will be held at future meetings on this subject.

Next, discussion C. Davis advised that N. Drye has reached out to him regarding his paperwork for reappointment. Further discussion will be held at future meetings on this subject.

Vice Chair would like ED Morrisroe to provide the Commission with an Executive Report to advise the Commission of ED Morrisroe engagements or any follow up correspondences when he is acting on behalf of the Commission.

Next, new business regarding cultural community efforts discussion ensued led by ED Morrisroe. ED Morrisroe will follow up with El Bueno Amigo on their concerns with regards to their paperwork with Allen West for a booth at the Allentown Arts Festival. ED Morrisroe stated their application was denied but the reason for the denial was not disclosed on the letter they received. ED Morrisroe stated El Bueno Amigo is trying to create a Hispanic Arts presence in the Allentown area. C. Davis stated El Bueno Amigo has since been informed the application was denied because the application was submitted late and missing information. C. Davis stated El Bueno Amigo should be all set with this concern.

ED Morrisroe provided Commission members with a survey. The intent of the survey is to provide direction as to what type of activities, members would like to be involved with (see attached), in addition to committee membership. The committees are Citizens' Rights, Police Oversight and Community Relations. This would provide reassurance that Commission members are engaged in areas of desired interest to ensure accomplishment of 2016 goals. Further discussion will be held at future meetings on this subject.

Next, Vice-Chair Granville inquired about the status of audio recordings of the Commission meetings being placed online. ED Morrisroe stated at this time no audio recordings have been placed online. However after reviewing the Commission's Bylaws we should be providing audio recording of meetings online for the public to review. Vice-Chair Granville mentioned there might be concerns with having the audio recording of the meetings posted online. C. Davis also stated that citizens might be apprehensive to file a complaint if the information is then made public. G. Wilson also stated that complaints are not public documents. Further discussion will follow at the next meeting.

Vice-Chair Granville suggested that the Commission's Bylaws (see attached) should be viewable online as well.

A motion to adjourn meeting was made by Vice Chair Granville 5:46 pm, seconded by C. Davis, passing unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn E. Manney
Assistant Director
CCR&CR

Date approved: 7/27/16