

City of Morgantown
Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes April 18, 2013

Present: Don Spencer, Chair
Jan Derry, Member
Mike Fike, Member
Warren Harger, Member
Anne Marlene Robinson-Savino, Secretary

Tim Hairston, State HRC
David Bott, Admin. Rep.

Guest Speaker: The Rev. John Sonnenday

Visitor: John Miles

Meeting called to order by Don Spencer, Chair at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes read: The minutes from March 21 were approved as corrected.

Report on Human Rights Related State Legislation: Commissioners shared information on the withdrawal of H.B. 2856, the West Virginia's Employment and Housing Non-Discrimination Act. This bill was sponsored on the House side by Delegate Stephen Skinner and a similar bill was sponsored on the Senate side by Jeff Kessler and Bob Beach. The bill was withdrawn at the last minute at the request of Fairness WV and others when it became clear that transgendered persons would be excluded from employment discrimination. The Complete Streets legislation did pass and a Bicycle Bill was withdrawn due to amendments contrary to the intent of the bill.

Report on Status of HRC Funding Requests: David Bott reported that the HUD decision making on the Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG) would not be firm until September or October. At this time the HRC is "penciled in" for \$2,500 in CDBG funding for need assessment work in the new HUD fiscal year.

Introduction to City Affirmative Action Plan: Members of the HRC did not have a correct City Affirmative Action Plan document, and David Bott indicated that a correct document would be available in time for the next HRC meeting. Don Spencer briefly described some of the content on AAP plans found on the internet, but it was agreed that the plan would receive primary attention at the May HRC meeting.

HRC Logo: Don Spencer reported that Professor Eve Faulkes has begun work on the development of a draft logo design for the HRC. Progress on this project will be presented at the May HRC meeting.

State HRC Conference of Fair Housing Act: Tim Hairston reported that the State HRC Office will be sponsoring a can event on Fair Housing on April 29 and 30 2013 in Charleston. A copy of a letter with the details was included in the agenda packet.

Homelessness: The Guest Speaker for the evening was The Rev. John Sonnenday, Chair of the Morgantown/Monongalia County Task Force on Homelessness. He presented an overview of the “Community-wide Plan to Reduce Homelessness”. He explained that the goal of the plan is to reduce homelessness and to speed up re-housing. Persons living in housing are less expensive for public finances than persons living on the street. The number of homeless children is increasing in Morgantown and overall the number of homeless persons has increased since 2010 from 428 to 623 persons. At present the shelter resources include the downtown facility (Bartlett House) and a West Run facility. Sonnenday stressed the importance of increasing education on housing and homelessness for the public.

Docket Introduction: The Chair presented a docket format which he suggested as a means to keep track of the Commission’s work to date and for listing projected project possibilities. The commissioners present gave approval of the docket concept and made several recommended additions to items listed assembled from the previous meetings listed.

Adjourned: 8:50 pm

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