

City of Morgantown
Human Rights Commission
Meeting minutes March 21, 2013
(Corrected on April 18, 2013)

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

Guest: David M. Fryson, Esq, Chief Diversity Officer - WVU
Tim Hairston, Liaison w/State HRC

Meeting called to order by Don Spencer, Chair.

Minutes read. Jan questioned item #1 of Jeff's presentation at the February 21, 2013 meeting that we will submit minutes no later than one week prior to meeting. Jan so moved; Mike seconded. Unanimous.

Guest David Fryson was introduced. Originally from West Virginia, reared on West Virginia State College campus, David Fryson is an attorney and Chief Diversity Officer at WVU. He has a BA Ed w/music emphasis. He originally worked for Charleston Jobs Force Center and was recruited to be minority business director under Governor Rockefeller. He began as industrial representative at his request. As an entry level position he learned more from the ground up. He attended WVU law school and now is also a member OIC (Office of Industrialization Congress) and minister. When originally recruited to return to Morgantown, he said no for family reasons. A second opportunity was extended and he did not come. The third opportunity brought him to Morgantown and WVU.

On September 9, 2012 David Fryson was appointed Chief Diversity Officer at WVU. WVU's 20/20 strategic plan as set by President Clements included diversity being given a higher level of priority. Stakeholders have been added to tell their story and create a plan to build diversity. The plan brings together diversity, equity & inclusion: Equity -- compliance issues (floor); Diversity -- more programs (house); Inclusion -- make welcome and apart of the community. It is very important for University to help state revive an awareness of its history. He explained the definition of diversity: collection of similarities and differences where ever you find them. Differences add value. Further diversity brings positive value to all. Fryson and his office is willing to do diversity training with city. There is an upcoming meeting with Don Spencer, David Bott and Susan Johnson, director of Members of Diversity (MOD) to discuss a grant.

Report on State Human Rights Commission events: Jan Derry and Tim Hairston brought us up to date on the events at the State Capitol on February 22. Jan and Tim

were given awards for promoting civil rights thru advocacy. Tim discussed a 1995 report on the role of the State HRC Commission. Acting State Director Judge Carter recently set out six specific issues to be taken care. Previously HR commissioners did not play an active roll. They are now charged with being more active with the support of Judge Carter. The state as well as the governor's office is watching Morgantown's development of its human rights commission, and we may be used as a future model.

Bylaws: Eve Faulkes agreed to work on logo and we can expect art at the next meeting. There were no other changes in the bylaws from commission members at this time. The bylaws will be reviewed one more time before they go on to city council.

Vacant seat on commission recommendation: The name of Sam Liezier, WVU - Social Work, was suggested as recommendation to city council for appointment to commission. Other suggestions will be considered at the next meeting. The Council will also be encouraged to revisit other candidates from original pool of human rights commission interested parties.

Fair Housing discussed: In light of April being Fair Housing Month, it was suggested that the website WV Fair Housing.org be reviewed for trainings, landlord/tenant handbook, and that through Google, all can access the fair housing action network to get training schedule around the state as well as other information. Marlene Robinson-Savino moved that Human Rights Commission go to Jeff Mikorski, interim city manager, to ask that information be presented to council. Warren Harger seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Homeless Task Force Report: May be presented at next meeting.

Executive Session: Commission went into executive to discuss personnel issues. It was decided that in relationship to the personnel matter brought to our attention, we decline to pursue the matter with out further information.

Meeting resumed.

Adjourned: 8:45 pm