

*City of Morgantown*  
Human Rights Commission  
November 15, 2012

Reactivation Meeting Minutes

The full membership of the newly reactivated Human Right Commission met for an announced meeting on November 15, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Public Safety Building. Members present were Jan Derry, Michael Fike, John Hagen, Warren Harger, Anne Marie Lofaso, Marlene Robinson-Savino and Don Spencer, Convener. Citizen attendees were City Council members Marti Shamberger and Jenny Selin.

In their introductions, members included statements of interest in the work of the Commission as set forth in the revised City ordinance for the Commission. Expressions of interest included mention of: 1) accessible, affordable, fair and livable housing, 2) concern for the welfare of children, 3) fairness related to sexual orientations, 4) equality in access to programs and services, 5) workers rights, 6) livable, equitable incomes for residents and employees, 7) support of family life, 8) prevention of divisiveness in the community, 9) support for welcoming of visitors and new residents, and 10) support for persons with diversity in international, cultural and/or racial backgrounds.

The Commission reviewed the history and revised ordinance of the HRC.

The Commission next approved a proposal that its next two meetings be focused on orientation and training by the State Human Rights Commission representatives and by the City Administration. Don Spencer agreed to make the necessary arrangements.

It was decided to proceed with the election of Commission officers but to delay the preparation of bylaws until after basic orientation and training have been completed. Don Spencer, John Hagen and Marlene Robinson-Savino were elected chair, vice-chair and secretary respectively.

Regular meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

The final discussion in the meeting related to preparing for identification and management of priority issues and concerns – those brought to the Commission and those identified through needs assessment as priorities to be addressed by the Commission itself in collaboration with various resources organization. Members reviewed a list of Steps Toward An Inclusive Community by Maggie Potapchuk, various outlines of material related to inclusive cities, and a list of state, federal, and local organizations which could be related to the planning work of the Commission.

The date, time and place of the next meeting were set for Thursday, December 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.