

**City of Morgantown
Human Rights Commission
Minutes of December 20, 2012 Meeting
Public Safety Conference Room**

Meeting Minutes: December 20, 2012 6:40 pm

Present: David Bott – Community Development Liaison
Jan Derry – Member
Michael Fike – Member
John Hagen -- Vice Chair
Anne Marie Lofaso – Member
Anna Marlene Robinson-Savino, Secretary
Don Spencer – Chair

Guests: Tim Hairston – Liaison w/State HRC
Esther M. Hupp – HRC Investigator

Meeting called to order by Don Spencer, Chair. Our guests Tim Hairston and Esther Hupp were introduced.

Tim Hairston spoke to:

- Advocacy by commission.
- Commission is working on letter re: LGBT to go to legislature.
- Discussion of enforcement and procedure to take issues from constituents (complainant) forward.
- Morgantown's commission having an advocacy responsibility role that is more educational than having teeth to adjudicate independent of state commission.

With the educational responsibility in mind, Dave Bott shared that the city budget for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding was being developed. The Morgantown HRC might want to request monies from this fund to accomplish educational goals. Bott recommended that the request be submitted by February 6, 2012 5 pm to him as our liaison and that we address impediments and research. He further recommended that there be a budget with project breakdown including costs and that the request have a broad scope. Also, budget should include a line item for things that may allow educational outreach.

After discussion of other subjects, i.e. needs survey, rule for LGBT in HUD funding that does not allow question of eligibility, it was suggested that a meeting be held on January 4, 2013 at Jan's office, 601 E. Brockway Ave, occur to put together draft proposal for the HUD - CDBG. At that time a budget request plan could be generated for next year's City general and capital budgets as well.

Training is offered by WVHRC on request by Judge Carter, Mary Kay or Esther Hupp. Spencer wanted to know how our peer commissions in other WV communities are doing in setting bylaws, meeting protocol, etc. Hagan suggested we schedule formal training for our February meeting.

Spencer announced that Barbara Howe invited the Commission to be introduced at the Martin King celebration on January 21, 2 pm at the Metropolitan Theater. The Commissioners were also invited to a reception at Arts Mon January 18, 2012 from 5 - 7 p.m.

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City website: Agenda and minutes will be on site. According to the Open Meetings Statute, meeting agendas must be posted a week in advance of each meeting. Also, any other materials or matters relating to the Commission should be on website.

Spencer reported on National League of Cities Conference held November 28 through December 1, 2012. 3000 were in attendance. Jim Hunt former CEO of Sunnyside Up was recognized at the event for his work. Professor Susan Feinstein from the Harvard Urban Planning Department presented a session on "The Just City" at the conference. Feinstein also has published a book with the same title. It defines justice in term of equity, diversity, democracy. Spencer provided a written report on the NLC event. He was energized, encouraged and brought many thoughts that could be applied to Morgantown as a result of his attendance at the conference.

Derry announced that April is Fair Housing Month. She will provide more details at future meetings.

Upcoming January Agenda:

Budgets for CDBG and City

General updates on State Human Rights Code

Hairston will arrange to get Paul Sheridan, Deputy Attorney General Civil and/or Judge Carter, attend the January meeting to provide orientation and training.

Meeting was adjourned 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: A. M. Robinson-Savino, Secretary

