Allegheny County Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: June 7, 2023 8:30 AM

Location: 920 City County Building, 414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15219 + Virtual via Zoom

1. Call to Order: 8:31 a.m.

- a. Commission members present:
 - i. Chairperson Arthur Pang
 - ii. Reverend Mary Ann Trifaro
 - iii. Tanya Vokes
 - iv. Leslie Paul Jamerson
 - v. Kellie Ware, Esq.

b. Staff members present:

- i. Jessica Sharp, Employee Relations Coordinator Human Resources
- ii. Erin Johnson, Office Clerk Department of Equity & Inclusion

c. Guests present:

i. Bhavini Patel, Community Outreach Manager

Chairperson Pang asked for a motion to bring the meeting to order. A motion was brought by Commissioner Trifaro and seconded by Commissioner Jamerson.

2. Introduction of Guests:

Chairperson Pang noted there were no guests for this meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Trifaro motioned to approve the May 3, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vokes, and unanimously approved.

4. Chairperson's Update:

Chairperson Pang noted the process for motions and seconds are atypical from other commissions or committees he has participated in. In place of "Aye, nay, or abstain," this commission moves for a motion and if the motion is brought, a second is called for. After a second is brought, there can be discussion of the motion among the commissioners.

May was a good month overall for the growth of the commission. 2023 largely has been an improvement for filling seats on the commission. The addition of an attorney is a fortunate benefit, and two seats remain unfilled. If any present would like to recommend a potential candidate, please submit their names for consideration.

The commission has historically foregone it's July meeting, as it often clashes with Independence Day celebrations and vacations. Chairperson Pang asked all present for their thoughts on foregoing the July meeting. Chairperson Pang, Commissioner Trifaro, Commissioner Jamerson said foregoing the meeting was acceptable. Commissioner Vokes and Commissioner Ware were both flexible on holding or foregoing a July meeting. Chairperson Pang stated that the commission will reconvene for the first Wednesday in August, and as a reminder, any schedule changes due to conflicts need to be communicated

to administrative staff with enough time for appropriate notice to the public.

5. Staff and Committee Reports

- a. Law DepartmentNo updates. Frances Liebenguth was not in attendance.
- b. Human Resources DepartmentNo updates
- c. Committee Reports
 No updates

6. Community Events:

Chairperson Pang noted that Pittsburgh Pride parade was held last week. Juneteenth will be celebrated Jun 16-19, 2023. June is Caribbean-American Heritage Month, as well as National Homeownership Month, and it was recognized that a layer of this commission is related to fair housing.

Commissioner Trifaro shared Earth Day events in her community last month were a success.

Commissioner Vokes shared Dress for Success will be hosting an Open House on Wednesday, June 14, at their Sharpsburg warehouse to see back of house operations. Staff and board members will be on site with drinks, snacks, and dessert provided. She also noted that on Wednesdays, 8-12 people can volunteer for "Warehouse Wednesdays" to hear an overview of the organization and assist in sorting and organizing donations to support women in the community.

Commissioner Jamerson shared information about the PUMP team's program, Kickball for a Cause tournament taking place August 12 in Mellon Park. Beneficiaries for this event are Pittsburgh Hardball Academy, a non-profit youth advocacy organization that empowers underrepresented populations with enrichment programs on the field, in the classroom, and in the wider community; and Evolve Coaching, which provides support to individuals with disabilities through education, employment, and the arts, including specialized coaching services to assist individuals in becoming integrated and productive members of their communities.

7. Strategic Initiatives and Process Improvement:

Chairperson Pang noted that all support from the County is appreciated, and no changes are expected. In the event of any changes, commissioners will be notified as soon as possible.

8. Announcements and Open Floor:

Chairperson Pang has submitted an application for a commissioner to County Manager Jennifer Liptak to review.

9. Adjournment:

Chairperson Pang asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was brought by Commissioner Trifaro and seconded by Commissioner Jamerson.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 a.m.