

## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2018

**Members Present:** Chair Alice Lewis, Rev. John Clemons, Jessica Embury, Melissa Morse, John Hawthorne, Valerie Cochran-Toops, Suzanne Mure, Russell Jennings, Miriam Brown Dorsey

**Members Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Staff John Willis, City Manager Patrick Burtch, Israel Grey

**I. Call to Order:** Chairwoman Alice Lewis called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. Roll Call.**

**III. Adoption of Agenda:**

Motion by Sue Mure to remove Item X. A. under New Business, and to correct the Special Meeting date in the Agenda to January 10, 2018. Supported by Miriam Brown Dorsey. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Miriam Brown Dorsey to approve the amended agenda. Supported by Sue Mure. Motion carried.

**IV. Citizens Comment:**

Israel Grey spoke about organizing a “Night Riders Against Child Abuse” event in Jackson and the Sanctuary City issue.

Daveda Quinn spoke about First Ward lighting issues and a cooperative effort with People for Peace as well as other local organizations concerned with community safety issues. She invited the commission to attend the Jackson Chamber Toastmaster’s open house at 7:30 a.m., January 31, 2018.

**V. Guest:**

Patrick Burtch, City Manager, spoke briefly about training dates arranged to help staff to better understand the community. The training series, “Bridges Out of Poverty,” and other sensitivity training is available. He also addressed the lighting issue. He feels the HRC is critical to understanding the problem of gun violence. He encouraged increased communication & involvement between City Council and the HRC.

**VI. Approval of the Meeting Minutes:**

John Hawthorne made a correction in the spelling of his name in the January 10, 2018 special meeting minutes. He further made a motion to approve the November 15, 2017 regular meeting minutes and the amended January 10, 2018 Special HRC Meeting minutes. Supported by Rev. Clemons. Miriam Brown Dorsey opened discussion reflecting on January 10, 2018 minutes, correcting error noted on minutes Item V, page 2 to read “ votes tallied and read aloud by Vice Chair Jessica Embury.” Motion carried to approve the minutes as amended.

**VII. Community Liaison Police Officer:**

Lt. Sergio Garcia, Jackson Police Department, gave an update about the Police Department. He reported on the success of the Citizens Police Academy and the Teen Academy. Lt. Garcia answered various questions from the HRC.

**VIII. Committee Reports:**

- a. Nominating Committee Chairman Rev. Clemons gave a report of the Nominating Committee. He also reported one of the three applicants for ex-officio withdrew due to health concerns.

A motion was made by Rev. Clemons to appoint Cheryl Lynn Ragland and Krissy Kerwin as ex-officio members of the HRC. Supported by Jessica Embury. Discussion followed regarding the process of making appointments. Motion carried. Chair Lewis welcomed Ms. Ragland and Ms. Kerwin to the HRC.

- b. Melissa Morse gave a brief report on the Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast. She said the breakfast was very successful.
- c. Teresa Delph Oratorical Contest - Alice Lewis gave report suggesting to advance the event date to March to be held at the Frost School.

**IX. Old Business: None**

**X. New Business:**

- a. Chair Lewis reported that the 2017 Annual Report will be ready for the next meeting in February.
- b. 2018 Committee selection will be ready in the February meeting. The creation of additional new committees that will address suggestions made by the Mayor was mentioned. Information will be included with the next meeting information mailing. Identify new committees and then create a strategic plan as a commission at a Special Meeting to be set for that purpose, with the possibility of setting two meetings in February.

**XI. Commissioners Comments:**

Chair Lewis, Rev. John Clemons, Sue Mure, Jessica Embury, Melissa Morse, Russell Jennings and ex-officio's Cheryl Lynn Ragland, and Krissy Kerwin offered comments.

Val Toops and John Hawthorne had no comment.

John Willis states committee information is available to those interested.

**XII. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn made by Miriam Brown Dorsey at 7:56 p.m. Supported by Rev. Clemons . Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Valerie Cochran Toops*

Valerie Cochran-Toops  
Secretary