

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
October 19, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

George Brown, III  
Teresa Delph  
Alice Lewis  
Derek Dobies  
Jon Hart  
Ed Peterson  
Parrish Stahl

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kathleen Conley (excused)  
EX-OFFICIO  
Val Toops  
Julie Nemecek (absent)

STAFF

Frank Weathers

GUESTS

Lt. Chris Simpson  
Cpt. Brad Piros

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chair George Brown called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Roll call was taken.

2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2011, MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Parrish Stahl to approve the September 21, 2011, minutes. Ed Peterson seconded. The motion carried.

3. GUESTS:

No guests.

4. COMMUNITY LIAISON POLICE OFFICER:

Lt. Chris Simpson gave a community policing report for the city. The police department is continuing to investigate the Reed Manor homicide, a suspect was arrested and court proceedings will start Friday. The Jackson County Major Crimes Unit (consisting of Blackman Township Public Safety Officers, the State Police, the Jackson County Sheriff and the City's investigative team) is on the case.

Lt. Simpson is looking at starting up more community meetings to work on getting some of the neighborhood shootings under control. They are continuing to meet with some of the community stakeholders to further engage them in the public safety process.

George Brown spoke about the mediation work that he is assisting with at Wilson Academy. Over the past few weeks they have been meeting with students and their families to get a handle on the violence.

Parrish Stahl asked whether there was still a resident council at Reed Manor and if there is any sort of action taken by the Housing Commission. Jon Hart said that many of the neighborhood associations are now defunct. George noted that there is another neighborhood association that has developed around Loomis Park and the push for a National Day of Peace.

Captain Brad Piros from the County Sheriff's Office also spoke to the Human Relations Commission. The Sheriff's office is working on building diversity into the hiring process. There are a couple of road patrol openings that will be opening due to various issues and more information on that is still to come.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Frank Hill from HARC spoke about the HIV epidemic in Jackson and gave statistics for Jackson County. Parrish Stahl asked about the rate of HIV infection. Frank Hill replied that it fluctuates from year to year and that people can go to a few different places in Jackson to seek help if infected. Mr. Hill said that, in mentality, Jackson County is 20 years behind the rest of the state. George asked what the HRC could do to help. Frank Hill spoke about the possibility of a health summit to encourage further testing, having a community forum getting information out about the stigma, or possibly collaborating on World's Aids Day on December 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

George asked if there were any sort of PSAs that might be able to help get the word out. Frank Hill said that that sort of stuff is tough due to funding cuts. Frank Weathers suggested using free things like going on the Bart Hawley Show, WKHM and speaking in front of City Council. Frank Hill suggested watching 'The Other City.'

Derek will organize another committee meeting before December 1<sup>st</sup> to talk about next steps with Frank Hill.

6. COMMUNITY UPDATE/CHAIRPERSON'S CORRESPONDENCE:

No report.

7. STAFF REPORT

Frank Weathers gave the staff report. Parrish Stahl asked about additional information for handicap curb cuts and Mr. Weathers said that he would follow up. George Brown asked about whether Technique, Inc. was going to be able to expand and Frank Weathers said they are still trying to make things work.

A motion was made by Alice Lewis to support the staff report. Teressa Delph seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Complaint Committee – George Brown, Chair

Frank Weathers had one complaint that came in and he referred that individual to the proper resources.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Anti-Violence Neighborhood Committee - Kathleen Conley, Chair

No report.

B. Community Health Committee – Derek Dobies, Chair

No report.

C. Complaint Committee – George Brown, Chair

No report.

D. MLK Diversity Breakfast Committee

Frank Weathers reported that Challenge Day is coming up at the beginning of November and asked for volunteers. MLK Annual Breakfast is coming up, and Frank Weathers stated that the speaker will be Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon. It will be January 13, 2012.

E. Nominating Committee - Ed Peterson, Chair

Ed Peterson reported that nominations will be postponed until after the election.

- F. Oratorical Contest Committee – Teresa Delph, Chair  
No report.
- G. Proposed Civil Rights Ordinance Committee – Ed Peterson, Chair  
Ed Peterson reported that this will also be postponed until after the election.
- H. Public Relations Committee – Parrish Stahl, Chair  
Parrish Stahl encouraged people to be involved in Challenge Day and noted that people with mobility problems may need extra help during the winter. Parrish would like to write a newsletter and asked for input from other HRC members.
9. OLD BUSINESS:  
No report.
10. NEW BUSINESS:  
Frank Weathers suggested getting HRC members to the next City Council meeting to speak in support of the National Day of Peace. Jon Hart suggested that the HRC might consider a resolution to the City Council.
- A motion was made by Jon Hart to have staff investigate the cost of a piece of literature for the National Day of Peace. Alice Lewis supported. The motion carried.
11. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS:  
No comments.

Parrish Stahl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jon Hart supported the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Derek J. Dobies  
Secretary

