

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
BOROUGH OF GETTYSBURG
59 EAST HIGH STREET, GETTYSBURG, PA 17325
SEPTEMBER 2, 2021**

Chair Janet Riggs Called to Order the September 2, 2021 Human Relations Commission meeting at 5:01 PM. Those in attendance were: Chair Janet Riggs, Vice Chair Taurean G. Moses, Secretary Jennie Dillon, Janelle Wertzberger and Scott Hancock. Absent was Pastor Jay Eckman. Others in attendance: Councilman Matt Moon; Janet Powers and Patti Robinson, Mediation Services of Adams County, P.O. Box 4113; and Jim Hale representing the *Gettysburg Times*.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time

Moved Ms. Wertzberger, seconded Taurean Moses to approve the September 2, 2021 meeting minutes. All approved.

Old Business

Draft Mission Statement – Ms. Wertzberger created a draft Mission Statement as asked at the August 5, 2021 HRC meeting. Mr. Moses also presented a draft of a Mission Statement with some verbiage changes to signify an ordinance vs. a law.

Moved by Ms. Dillon, seconded by Taurean Moses to approve the presented Mission Statement. All approved. – *see attached*

Follow up with Mediation Services – Chairperson Riggs reached out to Janet Powers of Mediation Services of Adams County to find out what they offer for training. Janet Powers and Patti Robinson of Mediation Services attended the September 2, 2021 HRC meeting to elaborate on what is offered. At this time Chairperson Riggs opened the meeting to Public Comment with Ms. Powers and Ms. Robinson.

Public Comment

Patti Robinson, Mediation Services of Adams County, made the HRC aware that it can do an abbreviated version of the training with an emphasis on Communication Skills. Ms. Robinson emphasized that the key is listening; the mediator says very little. Janet Powers stated that the training can be done in an 8 hour day. Ms. Powers stated that the HRC can refer complainants to Mediations Services of Adams County on a case by case evaluation. The complainant would pay the third party for the services based on income level.

Mediation Training – Chairperson Riggs will send out a list of suggested dates to the Commissioners in hopes of finding a common date for training. Councilman Matt Moon advised that the Borough has a Continuing Education budget that may cover the fees of the training. Chairperson Riggs will reach out to Charles Gable, Borough Manager for clarification.

New Business


Human Relations Commission Brochure - Ms. Dillon volunteered to create a mockup of a brochure for the HRC to be presented at the October 6, 2021 meeting. All agreed that verbiage from Mr. Moses' draft Mission Statement that he presented should be incorporated into the brochure.

Complaint Forms – It was the consensus of all Commissioners to create a Complaint Form to be used in print and on the Borough of Gettysburg website adapted from the form used by the Lower Merian Township HRC.

Adjournment

Chairperson Riggs adjourned the meeting at 6:00 PM. The next scheduled meeting is October 6, 2021 at 5 PM at the Borough Office.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jennie Dillon, Secretary

Attachment

Mission Statement as approved –

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) works toward the elimination of discrimination by fostering greater understanding of the rights and duties of Gettysburg residents, employees, and employers.

- Everyone who lives and works in Gettysburg is protected from unlawful discrimination by a **nondiscrimination ordinance** passed in 2020. The ordinance (§1-1301 - §1-1316) ensures more protections than does the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.
- We provide **information and education** to residents, businesses, employers, and institutions about their rights and duties under the ordinance.
- We **facilitate the mediation of complaints** about discrimination related to employment, public accommodation, and house and commercial property.

People living and working in Gettysburg are legally entitled to the full benefits of citizenship and equal opportunity in the areas of employment, public accommodation, and housing and commercial property. This right extends to all, regardless of race, color, sex (including sex assigned at birth, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and gender transitions and/or transgender), religion, religious creed or belief, ancestry, national origin, familial status, marital status, age, veteran status, mental or physical disability or handicap, or the use of service or assistance animals or the handler or trainer of such service animals.