

CITY CLERK

2021 MAY 10 AM 8:53

MINUTES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
April 20, 2021 6:00 p.m.
Fourth Floor Conference Room, City Hall

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Members' Term Attendance</u> (mtgs attended-mtgs absent)	<u>End of Current Term of Office</u>
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Dr. Jennifer Jackson	(12-00)	10/08/22
	Michael Jasper	(20-01)	10/08/22
	Sean Connors	(03-00)	10/08/23
	Terri Lowdon	(14-07)	10/08/20
	Bridget Supple	(15-06)	10/08/21
	Danielle McGaughy	(02-00)	10/08/23
	David Mason	(01-00)	10/08/21
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Rusty Summers	(17-04)	10/08/21
	Theo Williams	(06-06)	10/08/22
STAFF PRESENT:	Bryan Carter, City Attorney Ben Williams, Recording Secretary		

Item #1 Call to Order

Jasper called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: McGaughy – Present via Zoom, Mason – Present, Jackson – present via Zoom, Jasper – present via Zoom, Connors – present, Lowdon – present, Summers – Absent, Supple – present via Zoom, Williams – absent. Quorum is present.

Item #2 Approval of Minutes

Supple moved to approve the minutes and Lowdon seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Item #3 HRC Member Introduction

The Commission members and staff each introduced themselves. Jasper inquired of Mason's support for gay rights and changes in his position on the Conversion Therapy Ban. Mason responded that his opposition to the ban was the speech limitation and the interference with pastoral work. Mason also stated that he has much to contribute to the Human Rights Commission and that the Commission has many responsibilities.

Jasper inquired whether Mason would publicly support gay and transgender people. Mason responded that he works with everyone. Jasper stated that he believed the gay community will not trust the Human Rights Commission. Connors stated that they are a committee and that it is okay

to have a dissenting view. Connors stated that they needed unity and not uniformity. Mason stated that the Commission is much larger than just the gay community. Jasper stated that the Commission was formed because the gay citizens of the community did not have their rights represented. Jasper stated that the commission is to protect all minorities, including the gay community.

Jasper stated that he does not know why the gay community would trust the Commission with Mason as a member. Carter stated that qualifications to serve on the commission is ultimately a City Council decision and that the Council has already approved his appointment. Jasper then stated that he might not stay on the commission because he does not want to be a part of a group that is anti-LGBTQ. Jasper stated that he does not believe the beliefs of Mason are compatible with the Human Rights Commission.

Item #4 Old Business

Item #4a. Administration of the HRC Facebook Page

Connors stated that he has been adding to the Facebook page weekly. Connors inquired if everyone had joined the Facebook page. Jackson stated her account was on the page. Connors stated that the page takes current events and tries to maintain non-partisanship in the Facebook posts. Connors explained what he posts on the Facebook page. Jasper inquired of Carter if the Commission could post something about the Chauvin trial. Carter stated that he could generally post factual material. Supple suggested that something from NPR could be posted. Jackson suggested using the AP wire which is not politically leaning. Jasper inquired if they should make a post informing the public on new members. Carter suggested posting a brief bio of each HRC member. Jasper concurred with the idea. Jasper inquired if there were further comments. Lowdon asked if there was anything about Juneteenth or Pride Day. Connors responded that there will be.

Item #4b. Discuss events for event calendar

Jasper inquired if there were any more events to add to the event calendar. Carter stated that Supple provided a calendar of various events pertaining to the Human Rights Commission. Lowdon inquired about expanding the horizons and being involved in the commercial area of public accommodation. Jasper stated he reached out to Councilmembers Brian Myers and Brenda Blessing about expanding the Commissions' mediation efforts for Public Accommodation, but neither offered to sponsor an ordinance. Jasper mentioned having a forum to meet with the public so the public could share their views. Jasper stated that he feels it would be better to have a forum in person. Lowdon stated that she believes the Commission should go to the people because the people do not know they exist. Lowdon stated that one of the Human Rights Commission's mandates is to inform and educate the City Council and that they cannot do that because they do not know. Lowdon agreed that the forums should happen in person. Lowdon stated that the Commission should know the concerns of the community and that she wants to know so

the Commission can report those concerns to the City Council. Connors stated that there was a Stand Against Racism event at the YWCA. \

McGaughy stated that the commission could use the Bartlett Center as often as they like. Carter inquired whether the Commission wanted to have their meetings offsite or if they wanted to have separate events. Lowdon responded that both would be fine. Carter then stated it would be fine to meet at other locations as long as the public has access. Jasper inquired of Carter about who needs to reach out to the Bartlett Center and Interserv to schedule. Carter asked if McGaughy could coordinate with the Bartlett Center. Jasper inquired if the Commission could have their meeting in June at the Bartlett Center and have the July meeting at Interserv. Jasper asked if they could move the meeting dates. Carter stated that they could. There was then general discussion by the members about where to have the June and July meetings. Carter stated he would have the City's communications personnel put out the meeting dates. Jasper asked if Supple could give the Commission a date for July to meet at Interserv. Supple stated that she did not believe very many people would attend in July and suggested having the special meeting in September. There was then general discussion about having the meeting in September at Interserv. There was more discussion that the Interserv meeting should happen in October and that the group should attend the Pride activities in September. There was general discussion about how to reach out to the immigrant community. Carter clarified the meeting dates for June, September and October. Jasper inquired of Carter if there would be funding for the Commission in FY22. Carter stated that there would be no dedicated funding, but that minor expenses may be paid out of Legal Department funds.

Item #4c. Related Old Business

None.

Item #5 New Business

Item #5a. Related New Business

Jasper inquired of Mason if there was any church organization where all the local pastors met regularly. Mason responded that there were three such organizations. Jasper stated he thought it might be good to invite leaders of religious organizations to come speak on certain occasions. Mason stated he was thinking more along the lines of the faith ethnic churches. Lowdon then stated that sometimes the more marginalized people will share their concerns more with their faith leaders than directly with government groups. There was then discussion about how to reach out to these groups. Mason then stated that the handicap community is another community that needs to be heard. Mason then spoke to some of their needs and difficulties.

Jasper then asked if anyone else had concerns or opinions with Mason being on the Commission. Lowdon responded that it was not the Commission's say who got appointed to the Commission. McGaughy stated that it was the goal of the group to be diversified and

to be inclusive. McGaughy stated that the group needs a dissenting opinion. There was then member discussion about diversity.

Item #5b. Juneteenth Planning

None.

Item #6. City Staff Update

None.

Item # 7. Public Comment

None.

Item # 8. Future Agenda Overview

None.

Item # 9. Adjourn

Lowdon moved to adjourn and Connors seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:19.