

## **City of Revere Human Rights Commission**

### **Minutes for Monthly Zoom Meeting 3/4/2021**

#### **Attendance:**

Present: Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra, Vice Chair Chaimaa M. Hossaini, Lynn Alexis, Reverend Timothy Bogertman, Chief Christopher Bright, Chief David Callahan, Jalon Fowler, Dr. Lourenco Garcia, Rachid Moukhabir, Kourou Pich, Kathi Ann Reinstein. Absent: None

#### **February 4, 2021 Minutes:**

Lynn Alexis motions to approve the minutes. Jalon Fowler seconds. All in favor.

#### **Need for HRC Monthly Minute Taker:**

Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra states that Vice Chair Chaimaa M. Hossaini is involved with other HRC tasks and it would be helpful for one of the Commissioners to volunteer as minute taker at these monthly meetings. No one volunteered. Discussed the possibility of a City intern or staff assisting as well as rotating this task among HRC members. At this time, Vice Chair Chaimaa M. Hossaini will continue as monthly minute taker. Will revisit as needed.

#### **Pending topic update – Executive Director (ED):**

Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra informs the Commission that their recommendations from the last meeting were incorporated into the ED job description:

- Under essential functions bullet #5, added “faith-based organizations.”
- Under essential functions, added new bullet “Works to engage, execute, foster, and support positive and diverse community engagement.”
- Under qualifications, added new bullet “Willingness to attend additional trainings, seminars and coursework to stay abreast of new developments and best practices.”
- Under qualifications and education, added “or other related fields that support the functions of the HRC.”

Also, under qualifications and education, the Mayor recommended it state: “Bachelor’s degree is preferred, Juris Doctor (JD) or Master’s degree in Civil Rights or Human Rights highly desirable.”

The job is now posted. Interested candidates should apply by April 1<sup>st</sup> and the posting can be accessed at [www.revere.org/jobs](http://www.revere.org/jobs).

Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra will update the HRC when the interviews are scheduled with the Mayor. Commissioners are welcome to join if available.

### **Pending topic update – Anti-racism and Anti-oppression Training for Commissioners:**

Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra had a Zoom meeting with Brooke D. Lavelle, Ph.D., Co-Founder & President of *Courage of Care Coalition*, and invited Reuben Kantor, Dr Garcia and Kourou Pich to join since they had all offered to help locate funding. At that meeting, discussed the general function and interests of the Revere HRC to have a daylong training for the Commissioners to help establish a bond and create a foundational outlook. Also, Reuben Kantor mentioned he may be able to secure some funds from the City's HR department.

Initial recommendation from *Courage of Care Coalition* is that the HRC participate in a 2-day training. All Commissioners support this although increased cost is a consideration. A detailed customized proposal and another option is forthcoming from *Courage of Care*. Once received, Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra will email to Commissioners for discussion at next meeting.

### **Pending topic update 311 Request – History of Revere:**

The City received a 311 request from a person of color concerned that the Revere History Museum at 108 Beach Street promotes white supremacy and institutional racism. The request also asks that the HRC review the Museum and make recommendations about the narrative Revere is promoting.

The Commissioners intended to visit the Museum however due to COVID, the Museum is closed so Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra and Vice Chair Chaimaa M. Hossaini were hosted by Bob Upton and Toby Pearlstein from the Revere Society for Cultural and Historical Preservation (RSCHP) to tour the Museum on February 26<sup>th</sup>. At that visit, all acknowledged:

- The Museum runs on a completely volunteer basis including item donations and those who offer tours when the Museum is open.
- The RSCHP is very much receptive to updating exhibits and making the Museum more diverse and representative of Revere's history, especially in recent decades.
- The RSCHP needs more money and administration to support this.
- HRC members could assist by reaching out to their BIPOC communities for item donations and to ask about volunteers to help at the Museum.

The Commission discussed this further and all HRC members wish to visit the Museum before continuing discussion at our next monthly meeting. Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra will email the specific 311 information to all Commissioners after this meeting and request availability to tour the Museum, based on Bob Upton and Toby Pearlstein's assistance with hosting HRC tours.

Chief Bright motions to invite the 311 complainant and a Museum representative(s) to join an upcoming monthly HRC meeting so the 311 complainant can provide more information and we can have an open dialogue. Reverend Bogertman seconds. All are in favor.

Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra to follow up.

### **Pending topic update - Community Listening Tour:**

- First meeting was March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- No one from community registered to speak so we discussed comments from the City and HRC racial equity “engage” pages and the Commissioners shared their stories.
- Vice Chair Chaimaa M. Hossaini mentioned involving the youth to voice their opinions in the listening tour sessions.
- Next March meetings: 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 am and the 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Commissioners encouraged to attend.

### **Cultural Holidays & Celebrations Subcommittee:**

1. Approval of February 18, 2021 Minutes: Kathi Ann Reinstein motions to approve. Chief Chris Bright seconds. All in favor.
2. Report from Kathi Ann Reinstein, Chairperson:
  - The subcommittee focused on March because of time constraints with Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day (March 8, 2021).
  - Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra screenshared a banner draft created by Jackie McLaughlin in the Mayor’s office celebrating International Women’s Day.

Banner well received by all Commissioners with gratitude to Jackie for her work. Discussed changing the banner wording to be more inclusive of the entire month for use in future years.

Jalon Fowler suggests “Revere celebrates All Women, past, present, and future.”

Kathi Reinstein motions to accept this wording. Dr. Garcia seconds. All in favor.

Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra and Kathi Reinstein to follow up with Jackie for Mayor’s approval and to finalize banner for printing and display on City Hall for Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **HRC Communication System with Public:**

The City has a communication system of email, text, and Facebook to communicate with the community. The Commission discussed adding Twitter and Instagram to spread the word. Someone needs to manage this.

Dr. Garcia motions to table an HRC communication system and such until we have an ED. Kathi Reinstein seconds. All are in favor.

With no other business presented, Lynn Alexis motions to adjourn. Chief Chris Bright seconds. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.