DOVER HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JUNE 27, 2012

CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, DOVER

Present: Chairman, Roy Sudler, Jr., Ellen O. Wasfi, Richard Senato, Faye Della White, Dr. Linda Hackett, Dr. Edunosu, Kim Walfield, Justina H. Brewington

Absent: Dawn Allen-Pyne

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman, Roy Sudler, Jr. called the Dover Human Relations Commission Meeting to order on this day, Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at 7:16 p.m.

2. **Moment of Silence:** was observed.

3. **Agenda Additions & Deletions:**

   No changes were made.

4. **Adoption of the Minutes of May 23, 2012:**

   a. **Commissioner Senato** motioned to accept the Minutes of May 23, 2012
   b. **Commissioner Wasfi** seconded the motion
   c. Motion carried and the Minutes of May 23, 2012 were accepted as presented.

5. **Comments/Presentations from Members of the Community:**
   There were no comments made.

6. **Chair Report:**
   a. On June 18, 2012 at 8:05am, I (Chairman Sudler) received confirmation from Kim, Esquire...

   <Commissioner Faye White entered the room and was welcomed>

   b. On June 19, 2012 I sent out a letter for the Part-time Contractual Assistant Position.
   c. On June 20, 2012 confirmation was received from two of the three candidates, Ms. Francis and Ms. Talton that they will be present for the June 27, 2012 meeting.

7. **Committee Report:**

a. **School Programs**

Commissioner Wasfi reported on the proposed "Study Circle" Project. This project is a five week program that would run for 2 hours for five consecutive weeks. A discussion was held on finding a feasible location and time frame to implement the program. One of the suggested locations to hold the Study Circle was the Dover Library but the fact that the Dover Library closes at 9pm creates an issue. Other suggestions given were to hold the Study Circle mid-day on Saturdays or when implementing it for the schools doing it during a Study Hall. It was suggested that the Commissioners go through the process first before incorporating the schools. The Study Circle Program would consist of two Facilitators that are not Commissioners presenting hypothetical situations for discussion from the provided Study Circle Guide Book. All participants would go around the table and give input.

Commissioner Senato asked for clarification of the theme and subject matter of the Circle.

Commissioner Wasfi stated that the theme and subject matter of the Circle is breaking down stereotypes, bringing knowledge and self to the table to break through the surface. The Study Circle is not issue oriented but person oriented.

Commissioner Wasfi also shared that she participated in other Circles that had an OUCH statement. (Who am I and why I feel this way is not the case, it is more about how we as individuals react to each other.)

Commissioner Brewington stated that if this is done during the week that 6pm-8pm is not a good time.

It was noted that this program is for the benefit of the Commissioners and that the Community and Faith Leaders can be asked to participate in this program as well.

Chairman Sudler stated that he participated in a Race Study Circle as a young man and it helped him. He thought it would be great and beneficial if the Commission would participate. Chairman Sudler stated that the program will be for five consecutive Fridays for two hours and asked if all can get back to him.

Commissioner White asked is this once a year or just for the five weeks?

It was stated that this is basically a onetime thing. It was also noted that this would be a Race and Relations Study Circle and that there are many other types.

Commissioner White asked are we limited.

Commissioner Wasfi stated that this Study Circle is to establish a human connection to the faces we face daily. It was also stated that stereotyping is a harmful thing.

It was noted that if this is done for the schools and the Commissioners that the Commissioners should be the first to go through the Study Circle Program.

The Study Circle for the high school would include faculty and then get the students involved. We may want to check and see if the school could substitute a Study Circle for a Study Hall.

Chairman Sudler stated that once we the Commissioners go through a Study Circle then we can think of how it can be applied to school.

b. **Community Programs:**
Commissioner Dawn Allen-Pyne not present to report.

c. **Assessment:**
Commissioner Wasfi handed out the Dover Human Relations Commission Survey of Dover Residents with Cost Estimates.

Commissioner Senato asked where the results of the Survey handed out are.

Chairman Sudler suggested that everyone review the Survey and when the Commission meets again to bring additional questions.

Commissioner Wasfi stated that the Dover Post was used, address list was not included, random survey selection and that we only paid for returned survey.

Commissioner Senato suggested that prison ministries can print, fold and label these surveys.

It was noted that a list of names and addresses is needed for the City of Dover.

d. **In day Chair Report:**
Commissioner Wasfi – nothing to report.

8. **Unfinished Business**
   a. **Asian Illegal Gang Formation** – Resolution reviewed for suggestions and recommendations.
   Item a) final a new packet resolution.

Floor opened for comments on the resolution:

Commissioner Wasfi committed on the need for some grammatical corrections and bold facing on **WHERE AS**. She will review the document, make the necessary grammatical corrections and submit.

Chairman Sudler passed out pictures to support the resolution. It was stated that there is no deadline from the Mayor's office for this resolution.

Commissioner Senato asked if this was going to the City Solicitors Office for editing.

Commissioner Wasfi would like to proceed with the recommendations from March 28th Community Relations Meeting.

It was suggested to table a motion to accept to review the letter

Commissioner Wasfi motioned to review the letter

Commissioner Senato seconds the motion

b. Review of Questions from the Dover Human Relations Commission Survey of Dover Residents:

Chairman Sudler asked for suggestions on questions you may or may not want entered on the 2012 Survey.

Suggestion review for 2012 Survey Questions:

1) I have a full understanding of how to identify a hate crime.
2) My employer has provided workshops or seminars on employees or employers rights in the workplace.
3) I understand the difference between sexual orientation and gender discrimination.
4) I understand the Hate Crime Prevention Act.

There were no additional suggestions given at this time.

Chairman Sudler stated that he would hope that all suggestions be in by the next month.

c. Recommendations for March 28th Outreach Committee Meeting
Review letter from Commissioner Wasfi and letter drafted by Chairman Sudler for the Mayor and City Council to review by July 1, 2012 via email.

The Commissioners reviewed Commissioner Wasfi's letter to City Council and Memorandum. It was noted that after proofing the letter and seeing what can be incorporated in the memorandum from the letter, that the letter is the primary line of communication to send to the Mayor and City Council.

Commissioner White thought the letter and memorandum was a repeat.

Commissioner Wasfi said item #6 can be combined with #6 in the memorandum. Item # 6 (in primary letter) reference area about proliferation of guns.
A memorandum is used to strengthen the letter if needed. It was noted that the meeting was in March and recommendations need to be made.

d. **Residents stated in the Community Outreach Meeting:**
There is a problem with Wesley College students drinking Thursday through Saturday.
Commissioner Hackett stated that a recreation site for university age students may help defer students from drinking on Governors Street and becoming unruly and disrespectful to residents.

Commissioner White on Memorandum #5 on Wesley College

Commission reflects what the community brings forth:

- Residents requested more security or a mini police station.
- Some residents are stating that police are being desensitized to minorities calling for services.
- Dover citizens need a better understanding of zero tolerance code.
- Do you think the City of Dover is a desirable place to live?

Commissioner Senato needed to be excused from the remainder of the meeting.

Commissioner Walfield announced several job openings in the area Amazon -1200, Kraft – 200, Citi – 500 and that Redner's will be opening a store in Camden and Milford. She also mentioned that there is a company called Apex that helps past offenders clear their record.

e. **Final Draft of Sexual Orientation and Hate Crimes in the City of Dover**
Need special forum to talk about resolutions. Need approval for agenda and topic.

Commissioner Walfield state she will be absent for the month of July.

Suggestions to correct to forum or any motions to accept forum flow.

Commissioner Wasfi moved to have a Forum

Commissioner Hackett second that motion

Motion for resolution with proper amending's be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council for final correction.

Commission Wasfi motioned to review letter via email first before sending the letter.

Commissioner White second

Commissioner Hackett questioned motion

Commissioner Wasfi will do a modification to the letter and Chairman Sudler will modify Memorandum both will review before sending.

9. **Quick Summary of Self from Part-time Contractual Assistant Applicants :**
   Ms. Frances and Ms. Talton gave a brief summary of who they are and why they applied for the Part-time Contractual Assistant position with the Dover Human Relations Commission.

10. **Selection / Hiring Process:**

    Commissioner Hackett motioned to table hiring process

    Commissioner White seconds the motion.

    Motion carried.

11. **Announcements:**

    a. Mt. Zion Men's Day Community BBQ
    b. Calvary Baptist Movie Fund Raiser July 16, 2012 an Evening with Clifton Davis
    c. Schedule Outreach Location

12. **Adjournment :**

    Commissioner White made motion to adjourn the meeting

    Commissioner Wasfi seconds that motion.

    Motioned carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Belinda Talton