**Metro Human Relations Commission**

**Full Commission Meeting**

**June 1, 2015**

**Present:** Marcella Gomez, Aisha Lbhalla, Phyllis Hildreth, Deb Palmer-George, Avi Poster, Oscar Miller, Jeff Gibson, Peter Woolfolk, Alistair Newbern, Tasha French-Lemley, Sharon Kay, Frank Trew, Janice Rodriguez

**Staff:** Mel Fowler-Green

**Guests:** Josh Lee (Metro Legal), Shanna Hughey (Mayor’s Office)

**Minutes** from the May 5, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Shanna Hughey was not present. Palmer-George moved to approve. Kay seconded. Approved.

**Finance Report:** The Commission is on track with budget for the fiscal year.

**IncluCivics Platform Update:** Mel Fowler-Green updated the Commission on the public release of the IncluCivics software platform developed by Code for Nashville. The Commission has received requests to send out the platform as an example for other cities. Code for Nashville is willing to share its software. Press coverage has been very favorable. Data will be updated quarterly with raw data from Metro Human Resources. MFG will obtain information on number of hours Code for Nashville donated. The platform will provide tracking of change over time of hiring data for future policy recommendation and be coordinated with the active recommendations of the Mayor’s Diversity Council.

**Executive Director’s Report:**

* MFG presented the Commission budget request to Metro Council. The Commission’s additional budget request has been put on the Council’s “wish list” and will be considered by the full Council. Frank Trew and Aisha Lbhalla will represent the Commission at the June 2, 2015 Public Hearing.
* The Commission is hiring a program specialist. The posting will be open until June 15, but hiring will depend upon finalizing of the budget. A second position will be advertised after the budget is confirmed.
* The Community Iftar will be held on June 30, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., at the Music City Center. Discussion will be led by community faith leaders about work taking place in their groups to promote interfaith bridge-building. Dinner will begin after sundown.
* Volunteers may be needed to staff the Community Iftar and the Commission’s booth at Nashville Pride.

**ACE Committee Update:**

* The committees met as a group before the full Commission meeting to discuss projects proposed by MFG. Projects will be assigned to committees for collaboration with staff.
* Phyllis Hildreth and Sharon Kay will hold a community listening session in North Nashville in July to serve as a pilot for developing future listening sessions.

**New Business:**

* Aisha Lbhalla proposed a campaign based on Maryland’s “Choose Civility” program based on Dr. Forni’s *Choosing Civility* book. Phyllis Hildreth proposed that the Commissioners read the book and that this become a platform for collaboration with partners like Lipscomb University and the Public Library which are developing similar conversational initiatives. Commissioners also noted the potential ties to Nashville’s history as the birthplace of the non-violent civil rights movement. Commissioners will read the book and be prepared to discuss an action item at the next meeting.

**Announcements:**

* Fred Gray, Dr. King’s attorney in Selma, will speak at Lipscomb University on Tuesday, June 11 at 6:00 p.m.
* Hip Donelson Farmers’ Market has exceeded its last six-month record for providing Double Snap benefits in its first month of operation in 2015.
* Lipscomb University’s Dr. Lowrey will be the speaker at the June 18 Tennessee Latin American Chamber luncheon on his policy of admitting undocumented students.
* Out Central will host an upcoming program on non-violent communication for LGBTQI allies.
* A VOICE has two proposals before Metro Council: enlarging the Barnes Housing Trust Fund and endorsing inclusionary zoning. Avi Poster requests support.

Motion to adjourn approved at 5:20 p.m.