

**CITY OF HUBER HEIGHTS  
STATE OF OHIO**

**Culture and Diversity Citizen Action Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Name of Body:** Culture and Diversity Citizen Action Commission  
(CDCAC)

**Date:** March 3, 2022

**Time:** 7:00 P.M.

**Place:** City Hall – 6131 Taylorsville Road – Council Chambers

**1. Members Present:**

Jean Newby  
Tara Purvis  
Arrick Richardson  
Eric Stephens  
Fred Aikens  
Yolanda Stephens - Chair  
Rhonda Sumlin – Vice Chair

**2. Guests Present:**

City Staff Present: Katie Knisley, HR Director

**3. Call to Order**

Chair Yolanda Stevens convened the Culture and Diversity Citizen  
Action Commission at 7:09 P.M.

**4. Roll Call**

Roll call attendance was taken, and all were present.

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Yolanda Stephens moved on to approval of the February 7, 2022, minutes. She asked if there were any changes. Jean Newby reported one change needed for the minutes, on page 4, 8th line from the bottom that starts “The joint forum” needs to instead state “the forum, Racism as a Public Health Crisis, part 2” Chair Yolanda asked for a motion to approve the minutes pending the amendment, Dr. Fred Adkins made the motions and Jean Newby seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved pending the amendment.

This Culture and Diversity Citizen Action Commission meeting was recorded by the City and the recording of this meeting will be posted to the City’s website and will also be maintained by the City consistent with the City’s records retention schedule.

## **6. Topics of Discussions:**

A. Committee Reports

B. Old Business

- Citizens Review Board
- City Council Recommendations
  - Follow-up to Proclamation (meeting date)
- Commission Meetings
- Commission Member Openings

G. New Business

## **7. Committee Reports**

Advocacy Committee: Committee Chair, Rhonda Sumlin reported that the Advocacy Committee met on February 23, 2022. The committee discussed health care initiatives and goals for 2022. To bring education and awareness to city leadership and the greater community regarding healthcare inequalities in the city of Huber Heights. Under that there will be a focus on three key initiatives; one being the Cost of Poverty with a focus on healthcare access. On October 22, 2022 for Make a Difference Day considering a community health fair. Also discussed working with the Education committee for a forum or discussion on healthcare

inequities or access to resources. Rhonda also made a note about Advocacy reworking the resource guide already available for Montgomery county and tailoring it to local community needs. Advocacy made an acknowledgement of the 2-year anniversary of Ahmaud Arbery's death, February 23, 2022, and discussed having a 2nd event in May in remembrance of George Floyd's death. Rhonda will add these to the calendar. Discussed doing a minority health fair on June 20th from 9-5pm and Rhonda has submitted a request to Premiere Health to attend that event. She will report back once she hears from that contact.

Education Committee: Committee Chair, Jean Newby reported that the Education Committee met on Tuesday February 22, 2022 and discussed two items. The first item is preparation for the forum in June, Racism as a Public Health Crisis: Part 2, to be held June 23, 2022 from 6:30-8:30pm at the Huber Heights Community Center. The committee members are working to secure panelists and have secured one panelist at this time, Mr. Ron Jackson from NY Life Insurance company, he is going to focus on the economic effects of racism for people of color. Also trying to focus on areas of psychological and social effects of racism as well and will be reaching out to the Dayton Chapter of the NAACP and previous panelist, Dr. Nicole Carter. The goal is to have the panel finalized by the end of April and will have that information to present at the April meeting. The second item discussed is to have a conversation with the City Council members regarding the proclamation that was signed on April 1, 2021, that declared racism as a public health crisis. Looking to have a conversation surrounding six main areas listed in that proclamation and have action items surrounding those six areas. Especially the area that focuses on implementing a process for citizens to make a complaint or grievances that may occur in the city. The committee feels it is important to have this conversation one-on-one to ensure action.

Yolanda suggested doing an education piece with the City Council or a community based forum for council to discuss what they are doing to move forward with the items in the proclamation. The Commission did request a meeting to request a meeting to discuss the Citizens Review Board and the Proclamation declaring racism as a public health crisis. We are waiting on a date for those meetings outside of work sessions. Yolanda will follow-up to ensure that there is a date for this meeting.

Eric asked for clarification on if we were asking to be put back on the calendar since no one from the commission was able to attend the City Council meeting work session. Yolanda stated that the City Council did have a discussion about the Citizens Review Board but did have a lot of questions so we did request a meeting specifically to discuss the Citizens Review Board and the Proclamation. Rhonda asked if we should vote to have a special meeting request. Rhonda made a motion that the City Council hold a special meeting to discuss the CCRB request/recommendations and the proclamation. Fred Aikens, second. Vote was completed and all voted in agreement.

Reform Committee: Committee Chair, Eric Stephens reported that the Reform meeting was held February 23, 2022. During that meeting the committee discussed the CCRB recommendation that was made to the City Council. The City Council did have a lot of questions and felt that recommendation was provided with background information that supported the goals of the CCRB. The committee then moved a recommendation that had been tabled, the use of mental health professionals in police response calls. The committee is going to rescind the recommendation at this time in order to rework that recommendation. Focus on other areas surrounding mental health, like, education and training. Arrick has reached out to NAMI to get feedback and information that may help us with how we might move forward with this recommendation. Goals for 2022: First to see the CCRB implementation. Second is the focus on mental health professional support in policing. And finally, the last goal is a focus on community engagement as it relates to youth in the community. Reform would like to hold another forum or two that are held at the High School and Middle Schools with police. Up to three events this year, but with a focus on community engagement. Rhonda suggested that Eric reach out to the Community Engagement contact, Officer Lambert. Yolanda asked for clarification on what part of the recommendation was rescinded? Eric explained that the committee was looking to gather more information before moving forward with the recommendation. Arrick there is more to the issue and the committee is looking to ensure that they have a complete recommendation before moving forward.

Outreach Committee: Committee Chair, Fred Aikens reported that Outreach met on February 22, 2022 and all members were present.

Discussed the Father's Day Funk Festival and it will be held at the Eichelberger Pavillion. Committee was unable to connect with NEMI in order to book at the Rose. Fred has reached out to some contacts to secure some jazz artists for the Father's Day Funk Festival from 5-10pm on June 19, 2022. Tuesday, June 20, 2022, of that week will be a financial literacy seminar that will cover various aspects of financial literacy. Dwight Dewberry from PNC has tentatively agreed to attend. Venue needs to be secured for this event, the community center is booked. Goal is to have planning completed by the end of March. The committee is also going to have a Tik Tok challenge to draw more youth to the event. Forum-Racism as a Public Health Crisis-Part Two, will be held June 22, 2023. Prizes were already included in the budget. Volunteers are needed and vendors are still needed for the Culture Fest on June 25, 2022 from 12-5pm. Rhonda asked if Katie could reach out to contact on A&B for her contact with the Food Truck Association to see if we can access the contacts with that association. Fred noted that a few Food Trucks would be needed for the event on June 19th, Father's Day Funk Festival. Katie will reach out and connect. Rhonda suggested doing a formal call for vendors and specifying the need for cultural vendors. Katie noted that the Food Trucks have to be inspected on the day of the event. Yolanda reiterated that we need cultural organizations for booths, performers for stage and food trucks. There is not a separate sign-up sheet for the Juneteenth event on June 19, 2022. Katie will check to see if there is a charge for vendors to attend events in order to sell goods and food. Rhonda requested that Katie also ask if there was an option to donate a percentage or items in lieu of fees.

## **8. Old Business**

- a. **Citizens Review Board-** Yolanda started the discussion. Yolanda stated that the Commission members should have reviewed the City Council work session where they discussed the Citizens Review Board. Yolanda shared that she was taken surprised at the volume of questions and concerns raised by the City Council given the recommendation started with the NAACP's 8-point initiatives that started in June of 2020, where all cities were asked to implement a Citizens Review Board. The recommendation was detailed and should have decreased the amount of questions posed by the City Council. As part of the agreed upon process, Yolanda would like if the City Council has questions or needs clarification on a recommendation that they put that into writing. The hope is

to move on this recommendation sooner than later, these recommendations were made last year. Eric would like to see some actions from the City Council on these recommendations. Emails have been sent to the City Council that included supporting information to the CCRB recommendation. The Commission is not in the place to do all of the heavy lifting on these recommendations and this Commission needs the support of leadership to do their part in moving these recommendations forward. The Commission has a focus on dismantling the systems in place that suppress minorities. We need to ensure that as Huber grows that there has to be a focus on meeting the needs of all new residents. Meeting needs to be set for this conversation as soon as possible. Jean added that the City Council agreed to the commission but have failed to follow through with sincerity. Rhonda agreed and noted that she felt there was a shift after elections were over and the optics changed. Arrick felt that a meeting would help facilitate the expectations, issues and questions. He is frustrated with the amount of time and effort that the commission is putting into recommendations that are not being followed through on by the City Council. Fred noted that this kind of change takes a paradigm shift and right now we are at a comfortable place where that shift is perceived as not necessary. This makes the proclamations not a call to actions as much as a platitude and he agrees that we need to have this meeting in order to further the work that has been started. He would like for the Commission to be able to explain why the proclamations are important. Yolanda noted that we are proactive in our approach to these issues and we do not want to get to a place where we have to be reactive to an incident.

b. City Council Recommendations-

- i. Follow-up Timelines on Recommendations Made to Council
- ii. Action Steps for Council as a Follow-up to Proclamation (meeting date): Need to increase communication with the Commission in order to keep the momentum going if working on a meeting date. The City Council needs to get something on the schedule. Rhonda inquired how long does it take to get a special meeting on the calendar? Katie will look into that. Rhonda would like to submit a few dates and

have the City Council pick a date that works for a meeting. Arrick asked if we could request the City Council to attend our next Commission meeting in April. Katie will reach out to Tony to see if this would have to be scheduled as a special meeting or the regular Commission meeting.

- c. Commission Meetings: Tara made a formal recommendation to change the cadence in which the Commission meets to two meetings instead of the broad Commission meeting and the four committee meetings. The second meeting of the month would encompass the four committee meetings in one meeting in order to foster a more cohesive vision. Fred asked for clarification on the purpose of the second meeting to serve as a workgroup session and could lead to a long meeting. Tara explained her vision of the workgroup session was to cut down on the long meetings by tasking out needs and work within the Commission members via emails and small group work without. The change could also allow for some fluidity between the committee's or initiatives and allow for some to jump in and out of tasks or initiatives. Eric agreed with the idea but also felt that the meetings could lead to long conversations, so his only concern would be leading to more meetings and not less. Jean stated that for Education the meetings have not been that long and they are down to only two members, but she does understand there are some bigger tasks needed by Outreach and it would be nice to have the assistance of all of the Commission members. Tara felt it would be helpful to have the whole commission there for some of these conversations since the smaller committee groups can be like minded in target areas and we need the other voices to form a more cohesive vision for the Commission. Jean stated that she felt the commission's work and target areas are starting to overlap and the work is starting to come together. Tara noted that a lot of work did come back together to address the more systemic areas and it would be helpful to have the whole commission. Eric thinks it is a good idea and can see the benefit but questions if it is possible for the commission to be disciplined enough to keep the meetings timely. Katie did note that any second meeting would have to be staffed by city staff and it would have to be held at City Hall. Arrick suggested that we set-up tasks and small groups out of the Commission meeting and do away with the committees completely and those meetings. No

decisions will be made by the task groups. Fred suggested completing the committee meetings one hour apart all on the same day. Arrick suggests making a change to the recommendation made to only have one Commission meeting and tasks with a specific focus. Eric agrees but stated that we need to ensure that we limit the focus areas for the meetings. Discussion regarding task groups and compliance with Sunshine laws. Yolanda asked if there was a decision on moving forward with the recommendation. Tara made the formal recommendation to make the change to the cadence to the meeting schedule to one commission meeting and one work session meeting. Fred asked if there was a specific day for the second meeting and there was not. There was no second to the motion. Fred would like there to be a decided upon day of the week for the second meeting before moving forward. Tara stated that given there is no day decided upon for the second day that would be up to the commission. Rhonda would like to know more about the structure of the meetings before moving forward. Eric thinks it is best for the commission to limit goals and objectives to a few items for the year. Yolanda suggested that we table the recommendation pending more information and the commission will look at what dates might be available. Eric recommends that all members bring goals and initiatives to the table and the commission can vote on 3 or 4 main goals and objectives for the entire year. The Commission members agreed.

- d. Commission Member Openings: The commission has two members resign. There have been two applications and interviews are being scheduled. Yolanda reached out to the NAACP about the ex-officio member and she received 3 potential candidates and they all live in Huber Heights.

## **9. New Business-None**

## **10. Adjournment**

Chair Yolanda Stephens adjourned the Culture and Diversity Citizen Action Commission at 9:06 P.M.



