

# MINUTES

## HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

(05/28/2019)

**Opening:** Meeting was called to order at 5:06pm

**HRC members in attendance:** Monica Lira, Jim Boney, David Gladney, Nancy Warren and Matthew Kraus. Vice Mayor Natalie Wolf and Rabbi A.D. Motzen also attended the meeting. Guest speaker: Hasani Gillispie, Bridge of Life Program

Nancy made a motion to approval the minutes of April 10, 2019 meeting, seconded by Matthew.

### **Agenda for meeting:**

1. *Demographics of Amberley Village.* Nancy Warren met with Scot Lahrmer to learn if information was collected by the village on current and historical Village demographics. AV does not collect statistics. Scot suggested researching the US Census, the public health dept for stats. Nancy suggested American Community Survey as well.  
*Action:* Jim will determine what information is accessible online and report back. Other members of HRC volunteered to gather data in the future after we determine what is easily accessible.
2. *Complaints lodged with Amberley Village.* Nancy met with Scot to determine if there was a mechanism or process for receiving input from the residents regarding human rights complaints or feedback. Scot said there was no mechanism and he was not aware of any complaints. Scot suggested that Next Door was another medium for getting information out and receiving input from area residents. The HRC would like a designated Amberley Village email address to receive input from residents. Scot said such an email address would have to be staffed by an AV employee and all messages would be "on the public record". The committee would like to go ahead with this, as it is a mechanism to hear from residents. We would like to give it a positive spin by asking for stories or examples of acts of humility/respect/collaboration around diversity in AV. "Its our community."  
*Actions:* Nancy will ask Scot to initiate an email address for the committee: [AVhumanrights@amberleyvillage.org](mailto:AVhumanrights@amberleyvillage.org). Monica Lira will meet with Chief Wallace to get his perspectives on human rights complaints and also data collection (see following items). Monica will invite the Chief to meet with the HRC at a future meeting.
3. *Outreach opportunities:* We need to get the word out about our committee, and have a mechanism for residents to share input/make

suggestions, etc. We will finalize content for the AV online and paper based newsletters. The committee discussed having a table at the ice cream social. We need to write a simple mission statement in plain language and get a banner for the table.

*Actions:* Matthew will send committee members draft content for AV newsletters; our profiles need to be edited to be more consistent with one another. When final, Matthew will send it to Scot. Matthew will ask Scot about having a booth at the ice cream social. Monica will ask Scot about printing a banner for the cte at the library. Matthew will work on initial draft of a simple mission statement for public outreach.

*Guest:* Hasani Gillispie, Bridge of Life Program. Hasani was invited by David to discuss a program to foster better understanding between police and individuals of African Ancestry. The program has been implemented in Mason and WestChester Police Depts and AA men. The program involves getting to know each other as individuals, listening to one another and learning empathy, and cross cultural experiences (family dinner; police ride alongs). There is anecdotal positive information about the program but limited formal information on outcomes. The program has a minimal cost. This program may be of interest but we want to understand what training in cultural differences the AV police currently get, especially around interacting with African Americans.

*Actions:* Ask the Chief to tell us more about any cultural diversity training that is required/available to the police officers. Also ask the Chief how we can work together to build bridges to promote respect and understanding among all residents and officers.

4. *Ohio ACLU Mayor's Court Report:* Monica shared the ACLU document with the committee by email. Scot had shared this document with Nancy at an earlier meeting, explaining that police stops are often due to AV's license plate reader equipment that links to other criminal databases. He stated that AV is a safe community in part because we are proactive about stopping drivers with offenses unrelated to the current driving situation.

*Actions:* We want to learn more from Chief Wallace about the veracity of the data presented about AV police stops. At the very least, the committee is concerned about the optics of the ACLU data about AV do not align with the village's goal of being a welcoming community. Writing a response or statement may be prudent. This item will be revisited.

**Next Meeting:** No specific date was discussed. Action: Nancy will email the group to determine an agreeable date.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Minutes recorded by: Nancy Steinberg Warren, 5/28/19

Minutes approved by the HR Cte on August 15, 2019