Town of Boone
Human Resources Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 2, 2023
5:30 PM

Members Present: Laura Buck, Emily Brewer, Tiffany Christian, Harley Atkins, Todd Carter, Virginia Roseman, Meredith Sanchez-Sanchez, Anneliese Thomae Elias, Dana Bango

Members Absent: Joan Brook, Steven Yow

Council Liaisons Present: Todd Carter, Virginia Roseman

Call to Order:
Emily Brewer called the meeting to order at 5:39 PM.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:
July minutes approved with change from Ms. to Mx. for Meredith Sanchez-Sanchez. Ms. Thomae Elias moved to approve the minutes and Ms. Buck seconded; Approval was unanimous.

Tentative Agenda Adoption:
Ms. Brewer asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Ms. Christian moved to adopt the agenda, Ms. Buck seconded, and members voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.

Discussion of Charge:
Ms. Christian nominated Mr. Atkins to the open vice chair position. Unanimously, the members approved his appointment and he agreed to serve.

Updates on Black Business Month from Ms. Christian, as well as recognition for August 21st, Senior Citizen Day. A social media campaign with graphics created by Ms. Christian was created and will be submitted for approval by the Town of Boone. Members will receive the graphics to share on social media.

Ms. Thomae Elias and Mx. Sanchez-Sanchez updated their work on Hispanic Heritage Month activities collaborating with Yolanda and Que Pasa that will include:
9/19 KSFM at the Public Library with popcorn and drinks
9/23 Lily's Dance Night
9/25 Lily's Trivia Night
10/7 Beyond the Walls Short Films regarding the prison industrial complex at Appalachian Theatre-with panel discussion. $1,000 fee paid for by another non-profit
10/13 Farm Café takeover
The subcommittee will draft a proclamation in Spanish and English, deadline is last week of August and will be sent to Ms. Harmon.

Talk ensued about media presence included using the Town of Boone logo on all materials and creating a Human Relations Commission logo (Ms. Brewer). Ms. Pilkington handles social media for TOB. Press releases need to be authorized by the town manager or clerk.

Discussion turned to funding for the HRC and requesting funds. Mr. Carter said that members can send an email request for funds.

A June Pride subcommittee is already actively working on dates and a parade permit with Mark Freed. Juneteenth is something also on the radar for June.

Many ideas were shared about calendar additions to celebration periods for the upcoming year. Ms. Brewer will update our human relations calendar. One idea was a recycling campaign with Public Works, explaining how to handle recycling materials and may include a free tote giveaway. The idea was raised to do self-care treat bags at the Boone Boo which can include candy and information on mental health resources in our area. Mr. Atkins will handle candy and Ms. Brewer will take care of mental health care resources.

November is Native American Heritage month and Ms. Roseman will look to her connections with Cherokee tribe in NC to plan events. A possible event was discussed for Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, November 11-18, where there could be a sleep out in the park.

On December 10th is Human Rights Day and as an NDO we could take the time to promote ourselves, as suggested by Ms. Thomae Elias.

Eric Pflag was present at the meeting, attending the HRC meeting to familiarize himself with all TOB commissions as he is running for TOB spot this fall.

The group was updated by Ms. Bango about survey development. Met with Drs. Lippard and Freeland and a scheduled meeting date of August 24th at 9:30am in the Sociology building with Dr. Freeland's class was set up. The class will develop the survey for their capstone project.

Discussion of Next Steps:

Ms. Christian moved to table the duties section revision until September meeting and Ms. Bango seconded. The group voted unanimously to table the discussion.

Members will continue to work on projects named above as well as developing other ideas for events and campaigns.

Adjournment:

With no further discussion, Ms. Christian moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM and Ms. Bango seconded. There was no public comment, and the meeting was adjourned with unanimous approval by members.