

MINUTES OF MURRAY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

May 9, 2022

4:00 P.M.

The Murray Human Rights Commission met in regular session on Monday May 9, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. via WebEx with Chair Dr. S.G. Carthell presiding.

Members Present: Chair Dr. S.G. Carthell, Charley Allen-Dunn, Althia Caldwell, Dr. Peg Munke and Linda Cherry.

Members Absent: Gerald Washington and Ms. Saunders (Do believe this was technical issues)

Staff Present: Kim Miles, Rakov Aetherus

Others Present: Laura Ray and Debi Henry

Chair Dr. Carthell called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. and welcomed the Commissioners and guest.

Old Business

The minutes of March 14, 2022, were presented for approval. **Ms. Caldwell moved for approval; seconded by Dr. Munke. All members present voted Aye.**

New Business

Chair Dr. Carthell stated the Commission did receive a complaint about an incident that took place on Court Square. Dr. Carthell stated he contacted the Chief of Police about this incident. Dr. Carthell stated he believed each member has seen the picture and the complaint. Pictures were drawn on the ground possibly by the child that was present and words of slander was written by protesters in favor of keeping monument on the court house lawn; said slander was responded to by someone who was in favor of having monument removed. Police responded to a complaint made at this time. Allegedly, the officers who responded did not talk to protesters in favor of removal of monument. Typically, officers would take information from both parties present. Dr. Carthell stated the main issue for us is, what kind of community we want to have inside the City of Murray and how can we speak out against hate and negativity. The legal part to remember is the Commission has no power to subpoena; we have to report to the state.

The sidewalk is a public sidewalk. The Chief is looking into the possibility of an ordinance that may prohibit graffiti on the sidewalk. The act of writing on the sidewalk could be

the offense however, what is written on the sidewalk could be considered free speech. The freedom of speech is protected under the 1st Amendment; even hate speech is protected under this amendment. Dr. Carthell stated what has to be decided is how and when do we direct this to the state? Do we feel this is important enough to send? What does this process consist of? We can figure this process out and do this as a Commission. Dr. Carthell also stated the Commission could speak out on hate and intolerance. The complainant can contact the state themselves and the Commission can assist in that process. Ms. Dunn stated possibly that the Commission could make a statement in regards to the complaint. Dr. Munke suggested a letter to the editor at Murray Ledger. There was no formal complaint made to the Chief of Police however, Chief Liles stated he would talk to them if they contact him.

Ms. Dunn made a motion to draft a statement on this issue; seconded by Dr. Munke. All members present voted Aye.

Dr. Carthell stated Murray Pride Festival is upcoming. Ms. Dunn stated the dates are June 10th, 11th and 12th. June 11th is the big day featuring a parade. Dr. Carthell wanted the Commission to participate in any way possible. Ms. Dunn stated monetary donations would be good and a statement before the event would be great.

Dr. Munke made a motion that monetary support and a proclamation be made in support of Murray Pride; seconded by Ms. Dunn. All members present voted Aye.

Dr. Munke suggested this fall possibly having some community education on LBGQT Rights. Dr. Munke specifically wanted community acceptance incorporated into this workshop. Dr. Carthell said he would add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

Reminders

Chair Dr. Carthell reminded the Commission that the next meeting will be June 13, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

With no further business before the Commission, **Dr. Munke moved to adjourned; seconded by Ms. Cherry. All members present voted aye.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 P.M.