



City of Hutto

MINUTES

Diversity and Inclusion Commission

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 6:30 PM

City Council Chambers

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1. CALL SESSION TO ORDER- 6:30 PM

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Commissioner Spoons, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rodriguez, Commissioner Henry

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Onnesha Williams

4. GENERAL COMMENTS FROM CITY STAFF - None

5. GENERAL COMMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES - None

6. GENERAL COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commissioner Wilson: There are several agenda items that were put on the agenda for this meeting they are not currently listed. I'm asking that be corrected. I also want to put on the record that I have received communication on the letters to which Onnesha Williams refers and would like to refer to those for the record. That four of the seven Commissioners had a rolling quorum to discuss the removal of Onnesha Williams as a Commissioner and in those correspondences, one being from Brian Thompson who is the current Chair of the D&I Commission, Stacy and team and this is dated June 18, 2021. "Per my conversation with Mayor Mike Snyder, attached is the letter urging the City Council to remove Onnesha Williams from the Diversity and Inclusion Commission. The letter has been signed by four commissioners, myself, Beatriz Rodriguez, Tara Spoons, and Anna Gonzales. It gives specific incidents of divisive behavior exhibited by Onnesha towards other commission members and city staff.

We are asking..." and it goes on to ask that this be considered at the July 1st City Council meeting, and that they have involvement in selecting the replacement. This was not made aware, or the entire Commission was not made aware of this and it is a violation based on the City Attorney's training, this is a violation of the Commission's establishment in addition to that the June meeting to which I believe that this letter is referring had inappropriate actions taken and we voted on a Proclamation that was not on the agenda.

That was tabled from the previous meeting, I want that to be stated for the record as well. I would like to make it very clear that we have met three weeks in a row, which is a waste of our city resources both the time, in terms of the cost of city staff as well as their personal time away from their families and we basically we've gotten nothing accomplished.

I would like to state for the record I missed my daughters third birthday, last week because I was under the impression that we were going to do work towards setting goals and objectives and coming up with a budget. That did not happen and I am really disappointed and

disenchanted especially considering the level of expertise that I am committing to this Commission (inaudible) where I paid people hundreds of dollars an hour for this type of advisement to be dismissed, silenced and this is something that is not only happened to me, but to Ms. Williams and that's aside from any personal relationship that we have and it's being done by people that have limited to no experience in doing this work in any type of professional way. It's even more so disheartening considering the nature of the work that we've been commissioned to do which is Diversity and Inclusion work and what we've engaged in is exclusionary behavior. Thank you.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Wilson: I don't think that was publicly stated (inaudible) there was a quorum that was broken and per the Attorney when I asked a specific question, as to what was the recourse when that happens she said that number 1 there should be a statement made from the city, notifying the Commission (inaudible) that would mean the entire Commission and not just those who violated the ordinance and that the City Council would make a decision if there needed to be any action taken, which could include removal of those who participated in the behavior. So, I just want to make sure that's on the record and we were told there was going to be a formal communication of that and as you stated there was no intention of that happening tonight.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Wilson: I also want to make sure for the record and for the city staff (inaudible) taking minutes the items that were supposed to be on the agenda include that were to:

- 1)Vote on a secretary
- 2)Discuss revotes so we can rewrite the mission and goals of the Commission
- 3)Rescind the goal committees to properly discuss long and short-term goals since the last time (inaudible) and none of those things are listed.

Commissioner Henry: in addition to that there was a request for a proclamation process and clarification around how we would proceed with future proclamations.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Henry resigned from the Commission effective the end of this meeting.

Commissioner Wilson resigned from the Commission effective the end of this meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- 7.1. Strategic Planning, near term actions in alignment with Diversity and Inclusion calendar. (Commissioner Henry)

Onnesha Williams spoke on this item.

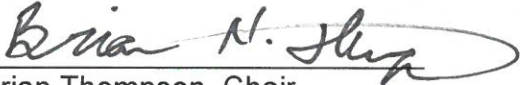
- 7.2. Discussion regarding sub-committee expectations. (Chairman Thompson)

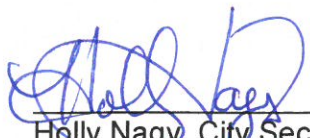
Commissioner Thompson made a motion to table 7.2 and 7.3 for the next meeting. Commissioner Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed (3:2) with Commissioners Henry and Wilson against.

- 7.3. Discussion regarding an additional monthly meeting with the agenda items of Sub-committee inventory and Calendar review. (Chairman Thompson)

8. ADJOURNMENT – 7:03 PM

ATTEST:


Brian Thompson, Chair


Holly Nagy, City Secretary