

**ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, June 17, 2019**

The meeting of the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee was held on Monday, June 17, 2019, at 5:22 p.m., in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Office Building. The following members were present: Commissioner Markley, Chairman; Commissioners Philbrook, Johnson, Kane and Bynum. The following officials were also in attendance: Gordon Criswell and Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrators; Henry Couchman, Senior Attorney; James Bain, Assistant Counsel; Phyllis Wallace, Director of Human Services; Wilba Miller, Director of Community Development; Cecilia Anderson, Fiscal Program Supervisor; and Jay Doleshal, Sergeant-At-Arms.

Chairman Markley called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

Chairman Markley said we do have one revision to tonight's agenda. Actually, I'm going to group it into two revisions and throw you guys a fast ball here. We have one revision to tonight's agenda which is to add a new item, discussion on the Community Development Revised 2019-Proposed 2020 Budgets and the Draft 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan. We're actually going to hear that first to accommodate a scheduling issue. We're going to do this quick item before your three items. Our other three items on tonight's agenda are all related.

Chairman Markley said we have no minutes to approved since our scheduled meeting April 22nd was cancelled for lack of items.

Chairman Markley said we're going to hear Item No. 4 as Item No. 1 and then we'll move right into the other three items.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 4 – 19805... DISCUSSION: CDBG REVISED 2019 AND PROPOSED 2020 BUDGETS; 2019 DRAFT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Synopsis: Discussion on the Community Development Department Revised 2019 and Proposed 2020 Budgets, and the Draft 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan, submitted by Wilba Miller, Director of Community Development.

Wilba Miller, Director of Community Development, said we're here to discuss the Revised 2019 and 2020 Community Development Block Grant, the budgets, and then the draft Annual Action Plan. On the blue sheet, you saw that we have budgets for each page. It has the different funds, Community Development Block Grant for 2019 and 2020, the HOME Budget, the Emergency Solutions Budget, and at the end we have the draft Consolidated Annual Plan Budget.

The draft plan has a 30-day review period before you can adopt it and that started on the 13th. That does not mean you cannot make changes. You can make changes if you require them. It will come up for adoption the same night as the budget and the Annual Plan. Do you need copies? **Commissioner Philbrook** said I don't have any. **Commissioner Bynum** said I think we do. **Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrator**, said we were told you had it. **Commissioner Philbrook** said you guys can fast track it, but if you don't give it to us, it's too fast. You outran us. **Ms. Sieben** said apparently, it's too fast. A blue sheet was sent out according to the Clerk's Office, but we have extra copies because we came prepared. **Commissioner Philbrook** said that's a good idea. You can mail it all you want. If I don't open it, it doesn't exist.

Chairman Markley said, Committee, we always consider this as part of our overall budget adoption, so you'll see it throughout the budget process. Since we have sort of been the committee who has shepherded this process before, we wanted to make sure that you got to see it before it came up before general budget discussion and that is why it is available for you tonight. It isn't something we—I don't know that—do we need approval for it tonight, per se? **Ms. Miller** said no.

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Ms. Sieben said I believe it is just for discussion only. To point out, as Wilba said, this is pretty much a standard for what we've seen the last couple of years. Normally, the source of discussion are the dollars that are left for allocating to projects within the Community Development Block Grant Program. Consistent with the direction we received from this committee and full approval from the Commission, we are continuing to allocate those funds to the Neighborhood Strategic Revitalization Area, otherwise known as Park Drive.

This year we will see the dollars from the prior year used to do the road and sidewalk improvements as well as, hopefully, once we work through some archaeological issues with one of our Indian nations, park improvements at City Park. For next year what's proposed is further park improvements at City Park, Regan Park and possibly Clifton Park, depending on how far we can spread our dollar. We do have seven hundred and some thousand dollars for each of these this year and next year allocated to be able to do work on park improvements, which takes the burden off of the Park's masterplan.

Ms. Miller said as in the past, you've seen this document before from me. The activities that have asterisks had money leftover from last year that we bring forward every year. If you want to walk through the budget, I can do that very quickly.

The one that is the Annual Action Plan is the year 2020. You see that the NRSA money for next year is \$700,000.

Commissioner Bynum said I have a couple of questions. I understand NRSA and the \$1.1M being dedicated to that, and we all have agreed on that long ago and I'm fine with it. I just kind of want to look at some of the other categories that aren't in that.

CDBG Acquisition/Rehab Construction. In '19, we had District 6 and then Northeast. Did we expend those? **Ms. Miller** said those are leftover monies from prior years. Yes, we do expect to close those out this year. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay, great. **Ms. Miller** said we have one property in District 6 that's already for sale. We have another one that's awaiting its certificate of occupancy and it will go on sale. **Commissioner Bynum** said excellent.

Ms. Miller said the Northeast Acquisition Rehab; I know they were working on a property on Quindaro. We've asked for an update and I did not get it in time. **Commissioner Bynum** asked

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do you know which property on Quindaro, because I'm watching one undergo some pretty major renovation that's making me very happy. **Ms. Miller** said I do not know the address offhand. I'm sorry. **Commissioner Bynum** said that's okay and maybe later. I'd just like to know if the one I'm watching is the one that this money is helping. That would be awesome.

Then, my only other two questions, we still, aside from NRSA, we still do dedicate these HOME investment dollars. **Ms. Miller** said yes, ma'am. **Commissioner Bynum** said those go directly to our housing activities that we try to support. **Ms. Miller** said part of them go to our Down Payment Assistance Program, also known as CHIP; and then we usually allocate by doing an RFP to our CHDOs. We only have one active CHDO right now. We understand that Habitat wants to gain CHDO status, but they're also allowed to go through this RFP process. Whoever has active projects gets to request funds. **Commissioner Bynum** said great. Some of what we're using is helping Habitat, which I know is also actively building six new home homes—**Ms. Miller** said two women-build projects. **Commissioner Bynum** said they're building a number of new homes. Then the CHDO is separate from what's being allocated. **Ms. Miller** said we are mandated to spend at least 15% of our funds on an agency considered a CHDO and that happens to be CHWC. They're working in the St. Benedict's area.

Commissioner Bynum said lastly, ESG, Emergency Solutions, if you could just remind us what that money gets spent for. **Ms. Miller** said those funds are allocated to homeless agencies through a ranking and review process every year. We just finalized the ranking and review process for 2020 last Friday. We had people outside of the Unified Government, outside of the homeless agencies come in rank, review and make recommendations, which I, in turn, put in the budget and the annual plan for you all to adopt. **Commissioner Bynum** said that's it. Thank you.

Commissioner Johnson said the monies for the CDBG public facilities & improvement for Mt. Carmel, were those carryover monies in 2019? **Ms. Miller** said yes. Mt. Carmel was having some capacity issues. They are back on again this year. It's the duplexes that they have that will be renovated and put back out for transitional housing. **Commissioner Johnson** said but there will be no monies allocated in 2020. **Ms. Miller** said no, they only have the four duplexes and we hope to fix that just with this amount. **Commissioner Johnson** said okay, great. Thank you.

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Chairman Markley said I will comment, just so you guys kind of can follow along with the whole Acquisition Rehab and Reconstruction Project. We dreamed up this use of funds before we started putting houses in the Land Bank and before we had that Propertunity Knocks Program. The houses that are being developed are gorgeous. The agencies that are working are doing fine work. We're not allocating more funds because using CDBG funds for this purpose is just not a workable solution, and we have a much better solution through our own Land Bank program today. Just for people that might see that zero and think, well, why aren't we continuing to do that Acquisition Rehab Reconstruction. It sounded like a good idea. It was the best idea we had at the time, but it's just not really workable within the federal guidelines. We are looking for other ways to handle that sort of work.

Action: For discussion only.

Chairman Markley said thank you very much to our Advisory Commission on Human Relations & Disabilities Issues for being patient with us to get that other item in. We will move along to your report which is our Item No. 1 in our agenda.

Item No. 1 – 19788...REPORT: ADVISORY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS & DISABILITIES ISSUES 2018 ACTIVITIES

Synopsis: Report on the Advisory Commission on Human Relations and Disabilities Issues 2018 activities, submitted by Phyllis Wallace, Director of Human Services.

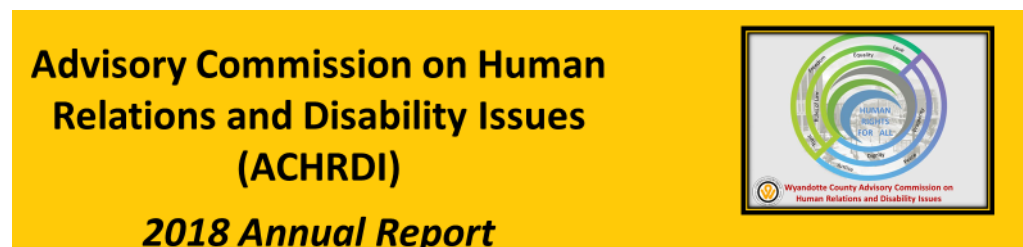
Phyllis Wallace, Director of Human Services, said I wanted to give just a little bit of a background. December of 2016, the former Advisory Commission on Human Relations, as well as the Advisory Commission on Disability Issues, were abolished. At that same time, the Advisory Commission on Human Relations and Disability Issues was created. Per our ordinance, it states that we will give an annual report of activities which is why we are here this evening. Thank you for having us. I will yield the floor to our two commission members who will introduce themselves and begin to give you our 2018 Annual Report.

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Karen Greenwood, said I will apologize in advance because I'm going to do some reading from our report because some of you know me and I might go on all night, and we can't have that. First, I want to thank you for your service to our community and thank you for allowing myself and my fellow Advisory Commission on Human Relations and Disability Issues members to learn from and advocate for the most marginalized in our community.

I'm a nearly 20-year resident of Wyandotte County by choice, appointed by Commissioner Markley. Thank you. I'm joined by Tom Alonzo, appointed by Commissioner McKiernan. Our fellow commissioner, Jesse Alvarez, who was appointed by Commissioner Bynum, is also present.

I would like to extend great thanks to our Unified Government staff, Phyllis and Maritza Fernandez, who created this PowerPoint that I'm working from tonight; and James Bain who has helped us through ordinance revisions, have offered exceptional guidance and have this Commission in a wonderful, positively position for us to move forward. Thank you.



PURPOSE



2018 Metro Area Human Relations Summit

- Foster, encourage and stimulate mutual understanding, respect and harmonious relations among all racial, religious, ethnic and minority groups (including people with disabilities)
- Discourage and prevent prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, disorder and discriminating practices against any group or its members
- Function as the advisory committee on disabilities issues in order to identify necessary services not being provided for people with disabilities
- Improve the delivery of services for disabled persons in the most cost effective manner
- Promote good will
- Develop a program for practical cooperation with state and federal agencies and nongovernmental agencies having the like or kindred function
- Make such investigation and studies in any field of human relations as may be required by the commission, or in judgment of the commission that will aid in effectuating its general purposes

The Advisory Commission on Human Relations and Disability Issues, our purpose is as waddy as our title, which is to foster, encourage and stimulate mutual understanding, respect and harmonious relations among all racial, religious, ethnic and minority groups, including people with disabilities.

To discourage and prevent prejudice and tolerance, bigotry, disorder and discriminating practices against any group or its members to function as the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues in order to identify necessary services not being provided for people with disabilities. To

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improve the delivery of services for disabled persons in the most cost-effective manner. To promote good will. To develop a program for practical cooperation with state and federal agencies and non-governmental agencies having the like or kindred function, and to make such investigation in studies in any field of human relations as it may be required by the Commission or in judgement of the Commission that will aid in effectuating the general purpose.



Three accomplishments to this purpose that we are most proud of in the last year, is the hosting of a documentary screening in collaboration with Kansas City Kansas Community College in recognition of Women’s History Month. The movie selected highlighted the needs of women veterans returning from areas of conflict. Documentary screenings are a wonderful educational tool in a way to bring the community together. It was our first attempt and we look forward to doing them again.

Secondly, last fall we hosted over 30 guests who serve on commissions similar to ours for dinner and conversation at the 2018 Annual Metro Area Human Relations Summit. Municipalities represented at the summit included: Overland Park, Olathe, Lee’s Summit, Raytown and Independence. Our keynote speaker was Brett Hoedl of Equality Kansas who spoke on the need for municipal non-discrimination ordinances like that of our proudest accomplishment, which is working with the Unified Government commissioners to pass a non-discrimination ordinance or NDO inclusive of gender identity and sexual orientation in May of 2018, making Wyandotte County the first in Kansas to extend protections to LGBTQ residents and only the fourth municipality.

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The trainings. Advisory commissioners benefit from continuing education opportunities to help us better fulfil our purpose like trainings in implicit bias, fair housing, cultural proficiency and ethics.



Advisory commissioners also have the opportunity to engage with residents at multiple community events like, the Night Out Against Crime and the NAACP Annual Banquet. I particularly enjoyed participating in tabling with Tom at the Wyandotte County Ethnic Festival.

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Community Speakers

- Chief Terry Ziegler** – KCKPD and diversity recruiting
- Brian Shapley** – Chair of Equality Kansas – Metro KC
- Meredith Walrafen** – New Roots for Refugees, Catholic Charities of NE Kansas Refugee and Immigration services
- Edgar Galicia**- Central Avenue Betterment Association (CABA)
- Rachel Jefferson**- Exec. Dir. Of Historic NE and Midtown Assn. (HNMA)
- Officer Kevin Sullivan** – Community Policing
- Alex Martinez**- KS Organizer for ACLU – Municipal ID Initiative
- Michael Kelly**- Policy Coordinator- BikeWalk KC

While advisory commissioners have enjoyed being out and about in the community, we also welcomed community leaders to our monthly meetings to learn about the organizations and initiatives they represent. We have hosted multiple members of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department, including Chief Ziegler and neighborhood leaders like Rachel Jefferson, from the Historic Northeast/Midtown Association, and Edgar Galicia, of the Central Avenue Betterment Association. Speakers like Brian Shapley, with the Equality Kansas, inspired our Commission to act on what is now the NDO. Alex Martinez, with the ACLU, has informed our position of support for safe and welcoming Wyandotte Municipal ID Initiative.

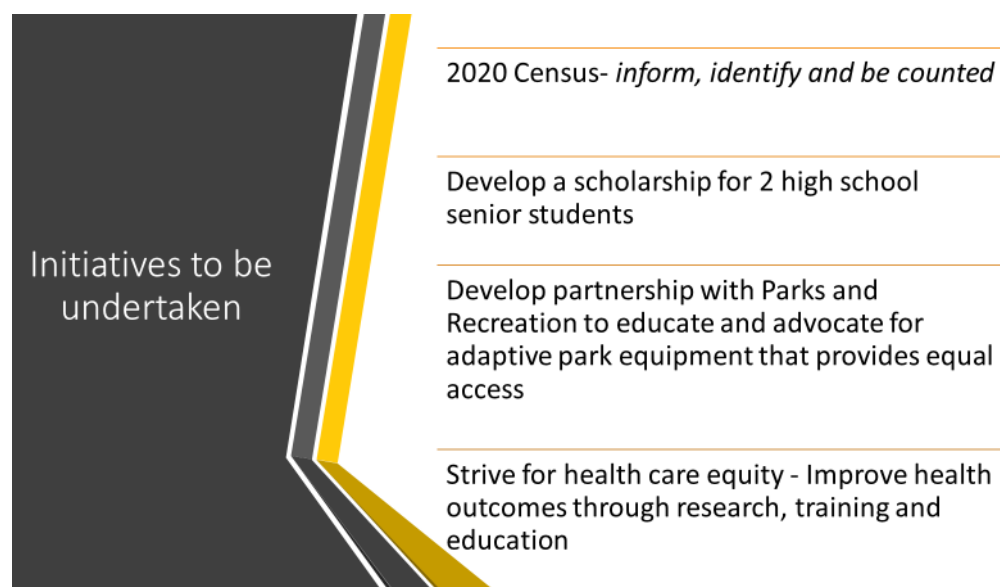


Initiatives Undertaken with Education

- Nondiscrimination Ordinance-**
Continuing community education
- Municipal ID -***Position of support with ACLU*
- Metropolitan Equity Index-**
Actively working to improve index score

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We continue our efforts to educate the community about the NDO and educate ourselves about the municipal ID. We also continue to actively work to increase our MEI, Metropolitan Equality Index Score. The MEI is an annual report issued by the Human Rights Campaign, which is a national LGBTQ civil rights advocacy group. I do not know that I can accurately speak to the numbers, but they issue a percentage. Our percentage, before the non-discrimination ordinance, was very low. It has increased significantly because of that, but there's more work to be done. I don't feel we will be fully satisfied until we're at 100%. In order to do that, what we're working towards is a LGBTQ taskforce and liaison within the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department.



Initiatives to be undertaken, along—I missed in here our 2020 Census Advocacy. Along with that and increasing our MEI score, advisory commissioners will be working in the coming year toward establishing a scholarship for marginalized Wyandotte County college hopefuls, partnering with the Parks Department, to advocate for adaptive playground equipment, learning how we can improve health outcomes throughout the county, and sponsoring a red carpet gala event celebrating differently abled folks in our community. Much work to be done. We thank you again for the opportunity to share our accomplishments and future plans.

Chairman Markley said thank you so much. One thing that maybe wasn't reflected in the history that people should know is that this committee was all but nonexistent and had gone dormant for many, many years. To know that this community really came from nothing, from nonexistence to what you guys are doing today, is really inspiring and I appreciate your work.

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Commissioner Bynum said in addition to that, I know that in 2016, I think it was, when we reorganized you, that you've had your bumps along the road just trying to assemble enough so that you could take action at a meeting and a variety of other issues. I had several conversations with my appointment to the Commission and frustrations were shared along the lines of your committee was unsure if you were getting anything done. I would just like to say that you're clearly getting things done and you have been all this time in spite of the bumps in the road. I'm so proud.

I will tell you that a year ago when we passed that non-discrimination ordinance, I was really proud to do that.

I will tell you also just a very personal little snippet. Years ago, about 5 or 6 years ago, I was sitting at my daughter's high school, her senior year while the students had like Senior Day, where they shared a poem or played the piano or whatever it was they wanted to do and share with their fellow seniors. There was a student who stood up and told her classmates that without them supporting her, she would not be alive. I was so incredibly moved that our young people in our schools are embracing one another.

I was so proud of them and so proud of that school for being a place where our students knew that they could be exactly who they are and not be forced to be something other than who they are. It's a moment, obviously, that has never left me.

It's definitely, I think, what your committee is striving for in its work. You are doing a great job of that. I think we have two little items of business that are going to clarify and clear up some of what you've been dealing with so that you can keep on moving your committee work forward. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Philbrook said I'm going to echo what she said. Also, to show you my ignorance in some things and that is anti-folks. Me, I blithely go along and I'm not anti so I don't think that way. One of your teammates on your Commission called me up and said hey, we're going to be doing this. I go, okay, no problem. I don't see any problem so come forward and do it. It's something that needs to happen. Afterwards, when we all just voted it in, no problem, so on and so forth, that's when I found out that yay, we were breaking ground. This young man right here informed me about breaking ground and so on. That's when I reminded him that Wyandotte County is so diverse, that we're so inclusive in a lot of ways that a lot of

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other communities aren't. We're very blessed to be here and we're very blessed to have you guys. Thank you for your hard work. I really appreciate it. Thank you.

Action: For information only.

Item No. 2 – 19794...ORDINANCE: PURPOSES OF COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS & DISABILITIES ISSUES

Synopsis: An ordinance outlining the purposes of the Commission on Human Relations and Disabilities Issues, amending Section 18-23, submitted by Phyllis Wallace, Director of Human Services.

James Bain, Assistant Counsel, said the first item, the ordinance change addresses the purposes of the Advisory Commission. The changes that were suggested that we make—add sexual orientation and gender to the purpose, kind of matching the NDO.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bynum, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were five “Ayes,” Philbrook, Johnson, Kane, Bynum, Markley.

Item No. 3 – 19787...ORDINANCE: COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS & DISABILITIES ISSUES

Synopsis: An ordinance designating what constitutes a quorum for the Commission on Human Relations and Disabilities Issues meetings, amending Section 18-25, submitted by Phyllis Wallace, Director of Human Services.

James Bain, Assistant Counsel, said currently, the ordinance requires attendance of eight Advisory Commission members to have a quorum at their meetings. I don't know that there are eight people appointed to the Commission right now, but certainly I know it's been a challenge to have eight attend and be able to move business forward. The change matches many of the other commissions we have in the Unified Government to have a quorum be a majority of the appointed members.

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Action: **Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to approve.**

Commissioner Philbrook said just a clarification. I want clarification a little bit in front of people so folks understand what you're saying. You're saying that if we have at least eight then we have a meeting or we don't need eight to have a meeting? I want to clarify that. **Mr. Bain** said I think they have been having meetings even though—**Commissioner Philbrook** said but not an official meeting; nothing you can vote on and move forward. You don't feel like you're accomplishing anything. I got that. It's kind of like a double-edged sword. I got feedback from my person, that's why I'm saying that.

What's the minimum number that they need to have a quorum? **Chairman Markley** said it depends on how many people we appoint. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I know. **Chairman Markley** said if only four commissioners appoint people—**Commissioner Philbrook** said let's say we six appointed, a quorum would then be four. **Mr. Bain** said that's correct. **Commissioner Philbrook** said we're going by appointed, not available. Thank you. I don't read some of these things well.

Saying that, then that means that to have a quorum, if we only have six appointed, only four people have to show up? **Mr. Bain** said that's correct. **Commissioner Philbrook** said from that, if they vote on something, are you doing simple majority at that point on a vote. **Mr. Bain** said I believe that's what the bylaws call for. **Commissioner Philbrook** said okay. I'm just clarifying everything in my mind. Thank you. I just wanted to make sure I understood everything because I will be asked later; I know. Thank you very much.

Roll call was taken and there were five "Ayes," Philbrook, Johnson, Kane, Bynum, Markley.

Chairman Markley said we covered our Item No. 4 as Item No. 1. We went out of order. Thank you very much for being here tonight and for reviving our committee for us.

Adjourn

Chairman Markley adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

tpl

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