

Minutes
Manhattan Human Rights and Services Board (Virtual)
City Commission Room, City Hall
Monday, August 10, 2020

Board Members Present: Annie Cook (Chair), Laura Thacker (Co-Chair), Ralph Simon, Jerry Sextro and Matthew Jepson

Board Members Absent: Janet Dean, Thomas Kerrigan

Staff Present: Robyn Dreher, BJ Thompson, (Board staff Liaisons)

Members of the Public: None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by board Co-Chair: Annie Cook at 5:31 P. M. and roll call was taken by each present member stating their name.

Previous Meeting Minutes

Reviewed the minutes of the July 9th meeting and approved as written on a motion by Ralph Simon, second by Laura Thacker. All present members approved unanimously without revisions.

General Discussion- Local Issues to discuss

Annie Cook invited Laura Thacker to talk about mask issues or City's decision to make an ordinance requiring masks. Laura wants to discuss more topics of what is within the advisory board's purview to bring to the City Commission – "What is our role?" We need to be more aware of what the City Commission is discussing. Laura Thacker prepared a letter and submitted it to Robyn Dreher, Board liaison to distribute to all board members to review and provide feedback. Discussion about the face mask ordinance and how the HRSB board members felt about submitting information reflecting their thoughts on the matter. Ralph Simon expressed he did not feel a mask ordinance fell within the purview of the boards duties but as individual citizens they all had a right to submit a statement to the City Commission as he had done. Laura thinks this is an issue concerning safety and health looking at lower income people. Matthew Jepson said he didn't know where discrimination and human rights comes into it but did think if it was discussed it should be based upon how it will affect marginalized populations within Manhattan. BJ Thompson said, as a board as any other citizen they could draft a statement to the City Commission.

Laura and Jerry wanted to discuss what a statement would look like and asked the second ordinance document under consideration and that the group meet again before September 1st.

Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Laura Thacker motioned to adjourn, Jerry Sextro seconded the motion; the board voted to adjourn the meeting and established the next meeting date for Thursday, August 27th at 5:30 pm with calendar approval. The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p. m.