

Minutes

Human Relations Committee

August 10, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bob Canida. Those in attendance were Bob Canida, Nathan Montoya, Allen Watson, and Shirley Kloefer. Two visitors were also present: Larry and Pam Newhouse.

The minutes of the February 16, 2017 were read by Allen Watson and approved. The resignation of member Betty Todd was announced. She has taken a new job at Hanover College and is unable to attend meetings.

Nathan Montoya gave a presentation of Charter for Compassionate Cities. One of the main bases of this program is based on the book by Karen Armstrong, a religious writer and author of Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life. It is "Golden Rule" based. There are 46 countries in the world that have this program. It can be an affirmed Charter or Charter initiatives. Cincinnati, Louisville, and Dayton are some of our closest cities that have affirmed the charter. Louisville has a Charter initiative. The main difference is signing that you agree to the "word" of being a compassionate place or trying to initiate the steps of being a compassionate place by identifying the issues, focus on the issues and commit to forming the steps to solve the issues. When you affirmed, you express that you are "uncomfortable" if our place doesn't follow the Golden Rule of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you. Larry Newhouse spoke stating that Madison is a compassionate city. Nathan pointed out how Madison could always improve. Andrew Forrester agreed to approach the mayor about this issue and to ask him and the city council to affirm that Madison is a compassionate city. The mayor is also going to study the term changes of the Human Relations Board and the number of members on it. It is suggested that it be changed to 7 or 9 members in order to have a quorum.

Just Mercy is the one book for the one community program. There will be copies of the book at the public library in middle December. The book will be read in January, February, and March. A forum with Judge Todd and others is in planning stage for the discussion of the book.

Another item in open discussion was a follow up on David Alcorn's statement of nondiscrimination of housing. Andrew Forrester agreed to check on this.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by Shirley Kloefer, acting Secretary due to absence of Bob Pimlott