Minutes of the October 21, 2022, meeting of the Kansas African American Affairs Commission

Call to Order: 1:04 pm

Roll Call: Present: Stacey Knoell, Dr. Beryl New, Dr. Anthony Lewis, Jonathon Westbrook, Talia Penn, Mark McCormick, Dr. Trent Davis,

Absent: Jonathan McRoy

There was no public comment nor any special guest.

Chairman Mark McCormick opened the meeting by acknowledging that the commission may need to meet more frequently to take on the challenges that are coming our way, perhaps monthly or every other month.

Executive Director Stacey Knoell gave a director’s update.

* + Lunch and Learns have begun – Noon, Mondays on Facebook – all are also on the YouTube channel. ***Please*** help spread the word. The complaint most often leveled against the commission is that people do not even know we exist. It will be up to all of us to do what we can to make ourselves known to our community.
  + Black Leadership Brunches with KBLC: Wichita, Topeka, Lenexa, now Lawrence
  + Increase the Reach grant sponsor for KBLC. There have been a series of ads in the Community Voice Newspaper dealing with COVID and health disparities.

Old Business: The Town Hall in Wichita on September 10th was a success. We hope to do more Town Halls around the state and are asking all commissioners to continue to consider hosting one in their area.

New Business:

* Meeting Cadence
  + Commissioner Davis moved to establish a monthly meeting schedule as follows.
  + Monthly on the first Friday of the month at 1 pm via Zoom
  + Quarterly meetings to be held in person. Only 4 in-person meetings a year
  + Executive Director Knoell will check on reimbursement for travel for the in-person meetings and the availability of a hybrid option for in-person meetings
* Future Strategic Planning
  + Angeline Johnson is on hold for future strategic planning. It was decided that before our next meeting Director Knoell will send out the summary of the planning session that took place in June for all to review. Commissioners will come to the December meeting with ideas on what direction we would like the group to go.
  + There is interest in the commission for future town halls in the Topeka and Salina areas.
* Announcements: next meeting will be Friday, December 2nd, 1:00 pm, via Zoom
* Adjourned at 1:52