Town of Boone Human Relation Commission Meeting: July 16, 2025

Members Present: Todd Carter, Kirstin Morgan, Drew Finley, Sean Morris, Trevor Moody, Jack Yordy, Tori Rodriguez

- Meeting began at 6:04pm
    - All members present in person except for Joanne Pullati and Dalton George, both of whom were absent

- Moment of silence observed

- Tentative agenda adopted
    - Kirstin Morgan motioned to adopt
    - Trevor Moody seconded
    - Vote: approve 7, against 0, abstentions 0

- HRC vacancies announcement by Todd Carter
    - 3 available slots, 1 of which is for current college student

- Opened for public comment at 6:07
    - Closed at 6:07 as no members of the public open

- Approval of June 18, 2025 minutes
    - Move to approve minutes by Trevor Moody
    - Seconded by Kirstin Morgan
    - Vote: approve 7, against 0, abstentions 0

- Online complaint form approved by Town Council at 6-25-25 meeting after healthy discussion about protections for LGBTQ+ citizens as it relates to housing
    - Nicole Harmon will add to town website
    - Everyone agreed with this next step
    - Todd Carter is reaching out to Mr. Troy re: merging protections in housing without having to become a Fair Housing agency
        - Durham and Greensboro both enacted a Fair Housing ordinance, which means meeting federal standards and hiring additional staff
        - Put a pin in that for now while exploring the exact language

- Disability Pride Event
    - 35th anniversary of ADA
    - Event at July 26, 10am-2pm, Agricultural Conference Center
        - Welcome @ 10am w/ reading of proclamation and brief overview of ADA protections
        - 11am and on will be a festival style event where people can check out the vendors and get food

- Sean Morris having issues reaching a few agencies
    - Watauga Opportunities, Special Olympics, and need someone with Title IX
    - Kirstin Morgan will find out who at AppState manage ADA compliance or potentially a professor who can speak to ADA compliance – goal is to have a table with information on what they do and how they enforce compliance with ADA
- Sean Morris asked about including artists in the event so it was not just a non-profit event
    - The commission offered recommendations for finding artists via social media, Watauga Arts Council, High Country Emporium
- Budget approved by town on 7-9-25, Todd Carter explained process for spending and reimbursement
    - Flyers can be printed at town council chambers
    - Food budget transferred to Sean Morris
    - Keep all receipts to give to town upon completion of event
- Town of Boone will make social media post now that flyer is done

- Learn How Local Government Works event update
    - Sept. 27 or Oct. 4
    - Kirstin Morgan reviewed her ideas and asked for feedback
    - Kirstin Morgan stated goal is to present this as a "what can your government do for you?"
    - Have in evening or Saturday afternoon – about 2 to 3-hour event
        - Budget for light refreshments and space; thinking Ag Center or Town Hall
    - Have 1 faculty tentatively committed to moderating panel on how local governance works
        - Short workshop on overview of local governance in NC and relevant laws, with printouts for participants of governance overview and organizational chart
        - Panel w/ elected town and county officials
    - Options for second half
        - 2-hour vendor fair style with representatives from local govt agencies to answer questions
        - OR a second panel with those representatives to discuss what their agencies do and can't do, laws, etc
    - Each panel 1-1.5 hours w/ Q&A for each panel of no longer than 30 minutes
    - Feedback from commission
        - Todd Carter stated that if people could just know what state statutes limit what local govt can do that would help
        - Topics that will come up: AppState, parking, roads, new development and planning, traffic
        - Drew Finley asked should we include any state folks, like from DOT?

        - Kirstin Morgan worries if we include the state the scope will become too big
    - Sean Morris said we should get complaints of things that people want resolved and we can brainstorm what to do?
        - Several commission members pointed out how quickly this could get out of hand as we would need to follow up on each request for help
    - Todd Carter wanted to have information about the town commissions at the event and Kirstin Morgan agreed this is a great idea
    - Todd Carter pointed out people need to understand the very different rules, regulations, and processes between town and county
    - Jack Yordy asked about including BOE, which Kirstin Morgan said she was not likely to do because only have so much room on panel
    - Drew Finley suggested including information on things the town is doing with sustainability
        - Kirstin Morgan thinks it will be important to relate it to how it affects everyone's lives as folks don't always see that
  - Drew Finley offered to help plan, so he and Kirstin Morgan will have updates next meeting

- Work Session
  - Trevor Moody has event suggestion
    - World Aids Day is Dec. 1, and there is a documentary package that can be shown in remembrance of the day
    - Would need to get App Theater to show and panel afterwards
    - Todd Carter and Sean Morris mentioned ALFA, an organization providing HIV/AIDS support and based out of Hickory – could be for panel
    - Is a Monday this year, so likely nothing at theater already
  - Todd Carter shared email from Mr. Troy
    - Fair Housing symposium in Charlotte on Aug. 18
    - Another in Wilmington on Oct. 30 sponsored by NC Human Relations Commission

- Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm
  - Kirstin Morgan motioned to adjourn
  - Sean Morris seconded
  - Vote to adjourn unanimous