

December 7, 2022 5:30 – 6:10 pm

The meeting was delayed 30 minutes as technology for Zoom was not immediately available.

Call to order and roll call: Commission members present – Eric Sader, President; Byron Bangert, Vice President; Susan Gray, Secretary, Doris Parlette; Kathy Sideli

Staff: Molly Turner-King, County attorney via Zoom

Public: Donyel Bird, Care Not Cages representative

New business:

- a. Donyel Byrd representing the local Care Not Cages organization gave a 20 minute presentation about issues at the current jail, issues with building a new jail, and advocated that the money allocated to a new jail be spent on improving services for those whose “crimes” are due to substance use disorder and mental illness. Data shows that 75-80% of incarcerated have SUD/MI issues. There were many fewer people actually incarcerated during Covid – many arrestees were released on own recognizances. And the crime rate did not increase. Currently many in jail are on pre-trial hold unable to afford to bond out. There are conditions in the current jail that relate to human rights violations – overcrowding, high numbers of SUD/MI lacking treatment, safety issues. She advocated that the numbers of inmates be decreased by providing community based treatment, transitional & affordable housing. She hopes that the current jail can be repaired and maintained with less money than building a new jail. If there are fewer inmates (with community treatment) then they can be moved around and consolidated in a few areas and the empty areas repaired and maintained.

Old Business:

- a. Community Justice Response Committee: Summary of Nov.7 & 21 meetings of CJRC were prepared by Susan Gray and have been distributed to members: Discussion: commission members have found these summaries very helpful.
- b. Combining BHRC and MCHRC: Byron Bangert reported that at the Dec. 5 BHRC meeting, information was given that the combined HRC will have 7 members – apparently because all City and County Commissions have 7 members. Eric Sader asked Molly Turner-King if current MCHRC members whose term expire Dec. 31, 2022 would stay on until the status of the proposed combined commission is settled. The answer appears to be “yes”. The current vacancies on MCHRC will not be pursued until the combined commissions issue is settled. The officers will remain the same at this time. The County Commissioners met today and discussed the issue of a combined HRC. Angie Purdy is to provide a summary of this discussion. Molly Turner-King will send this out to MCHRC members.
- c. Approval of minutes from Oct 26 MCHRC meeting. Members apparently did not receive an e-mail with the minutes. Susan Gray provided a hard copy for members to read prior to this meeting (as technical issues were being solved.) Byron Bangert moved that the minutes be

- approved. Seconded by Doris Parlette. Minutes were unanimously approved with notation that the MCHRC was limited by the minutes only being available at this meeting.
- d. Ongoing investigation: Jeff Cockrill and Susan Gray are investigating. Susan Gray will contact Jeff Cockrill re status of investigation.

Commissioner's comments:

- a. Eric Sader mentioned the US Supreme Court Case 303 Creative LLC v. Elenis and what its effects may be.
- b. The commissioners expressed sympathy to Doris Parlette on the recent death of her husband.

Public Comment:

- a. See Donyel Byrd's comments above

Next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2023 at 5:00 pm - Hybrid

Respectfully submitted, Susan Gray, Secretary