



LLOYD WINNECKE
MAYOR

City of Evansville – Vanderburgh County
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

DIANE CLEMENTS-BOYD
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COMMISSION BOARD MEETING
JULY 26, 2017
CIVIC CENTER, ROOM 307

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Robert Dion
Alex Burton
Dan Carwile
Tim Black
Ruby McGlown
Charnika Baltzell

STAFF PRESENT:

Diane Clements-Boyd, Executive Director
Bonnie Fox

Kyle Biesecker, Commission Counsel

Chairperson Robert Dion called The Human Relations Commission monthly board meeting to order on the above date @ 11:40 am.

Agenda Requests – None

The above named commissioners and staff were present.

It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Carwile and Black respectively to adopt the minutes of the May, due to lack of a quorum in June, and June meetings as printed. Commissioners voted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Million Father March August 9, 2017 –

This initiative is spearheaded by the Evansville Commission on the Social Status of African American Males, which is under the umbrella of the Human Relations Commission. The goal of the project is for fathers, particularly African American father and father figures, to take their children to school and pledge to be actively involved in

the school environment. All adults are encouraged to get involved including women and men of all backgrounds. A news release from the Mayor's office was issued and employers were asked to grant employees a few hours off with pay to take their child to school. In the past, the commission has provided t-shirts for the commissioners and distribute to parents who bring their child to school on the first day. HRC commissioners are asked to support this event and to approve the expense for the t-shirts. It was properly moved and seconded, and unanimously voted on by commissioners to spend \$300 for t-shirts for the Million Father March.

Indiana Consortium of State and Local Human Rights Agencies Training Conference – The conference will be held August 22-25, in Indianapolis, IN. The director reported there are no registrations from Evansville. The director asked all who plan to attend to contact the hotel and make reservations and to send in the registration form. The hotel room block will be off on July 31. The Commission will pay the hotel and registration. The director will send the registration form, which also gives the hotel information, to the commissioners.

The director reported to commissioners that the HUD legal update is to be provided by IUPUI professor who participated in the Inclusive Communities case that went to the Supreme Court. Percy Green is the keynote speaker for the awards banquet. Several agencies will be represented with valuable information to be shared.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Dinner, October 3, 2017 –

Director Clements-Boyd reported the annual dinner speaker's contract has been approved and signed by the Board of Public Works. The request to be put on the agenda to waive the fee for the Old National Events Plaza will be sent to the County Commissioners. Commissioners Baltzell, Carwile, Burton, McGlown and Dion will serve on the dinner committee. The committee will meet outside of the regular meeting. The director reported that the city is changing its website and it will be revealed in the upcoming weeks. The nomination form has not been completed by the printer and the changes will be done by the time the new website is available. There was a suggestion to announce the winners before the dinner hoping the early announcement may encourage a larger crowd. The committee will make the decision. The director reported that Fifth Third Bank has contacted the HRC regarding sponsorship opportunities.

Community Outreach and Education –

The Advisory Board on Disability Services has had trainings and workshops on ADA Accessibility and Title III.

Investigator Smith facilitated housing training for Independence Square Apartment Complex.

The new website design informs the community that the HRC does provide training and technical assistance.

The director reported that the School to Prison Pipeline information that was received at the public forums has been completed and the commission is working on a way to get that communication out to the community. The director is hoping to get someone from the University of Southern Indiana to compile the information and to provide a final report from the Social Status Commission with some recommendations.

Independence Square Apartments requested Fair Housing Training and HRC provided the training.

The Social Status Commission is planning an initiative with the Evansville Library bring in speaker Omar Yamani in September to speak on the School-to Prison- Pipeline. He was in prison for 15 years, did not commit a crime but was present when someone was killed. He goes to schools, recreates a jail cell, and speaks to students on how to prevent that from happening to them. A date has not been set but a conference call has been scheduled with the director, the director at the library and Mr. Yamini to get a date. EVSC was approached for involvement but they are not ready to join in this endeavor.

Chairperson Dion wants to have an informational booth or table at the Women's Equality Day luncheon to provide brochures of the service that is offered by HRC.

Public Hearings – Update

The director introduced the commission's new legal counsel, Kyle Biesecker. He met with Attorney Kent who provided him with information on the cases ready to go to hearing. He reported that the Ross v. Shannon Glen Apartments is in federal court and is close to ending.

There are two housing cases to be scheduled and since it is mother and daughter against the same apartment complex the decision needs to be made if these cases should be considered companion cases. Attorney Biesecker's schedule allows for hearing to be held the second or third week of December. He will email all commissioners for scheduling information.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The director presented her monthly report for June.

Director Clements-Boyd is helping the Mayor's office coordinate diversity training for city of Evansville employees for the present year.

Open Discussion on Community Issues –

The director reported that during the Accessibility training there were some issues with Walton's parking lot, signs and van accessibility. They spoke with the manager who is willing to find out what needs to be done. The Department of Justice (DOJ) will be conducting voluntary compliance surveys in Evansville. The DOJ enforces the ADA. Meeting was adjourned @ 12:25 pm.