



LLOYD WINNECKE
MAYOR

City of Evansville – Vanderburgh County
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

DIANE CLEMENTS-BOYD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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COMMISSION BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2018
ROOM 307

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Robert Dion
Jason Miner
Dan Carwile
Ruby McGlown
Alex Burton
Henrietta Jenkins
Charnika Baltzell
Daniel Davis

STAFF PRESENT:

Diane Clements-Boyd, Executive Director
Bonnie Fox

Chairperson Robert Dion called The Human Relations Commission monthly board meeting to order on the above date.

Agenda Requests – None

The above named commissioners and staff were present.

It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Carwile and McGlown respectively to accept the minutes of the December meeting. Commissioners voted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Hate Crime Forum –

The director and chairperson met with the mayor and discussed the Hate Crime incident that appeared on social media and the mayor wanted HRC to make a stand because he did not want the incident to go unaddressed.

Mayor Winnecke requested the help of Human Relations to facilitate a series of community meetings. The mayor approved the free screening of the Bowling Green, OH film “Not in Our Town” that shows how a community came together after a racial incident occurred. Commissioner Black suggested having the meetings and film to coincide with Black History month and as a result, it will be shown on February 1 at Ivy Tech Community College. After the screening there will be a panel discussion. Light refreshments will be served.

Election of Officers –

It was properly moved and seconded and voted on unanimously by board members to hold election of officers in February.

The director welcomed and introduced the new commissioner, Daniel Davis.

OLD BUSINESS:

Racial Equity –

Director Clements-Boyd asked approval of board members for permission to move forward with this initiative to get supporters. The director gave an overview of the initiative for commissioners present. Commissioners Jenkins and Carwile respectively moved and seconded to move forward with the initiative. Commissioners voted unanimously.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

The director presented her monthly report for December.

The director reported that the ADA training that was cancelled in December will possibly be rescheduled for March. She will let all know if and when it is rescheduled.

Director Clements-Boyd reported that HRC Attorney Kyle Biesecker is moving forward with the public accommodation probable cause. The prehearing is scheduled for February 7th. No hearing date has been scheduled for the housing cases. Currently there are seven (7) cases to be heard in 2018. The director reminded commissioners that five (5) commissioners are needed for all hearings and must be available throughout the entire hearing.

The director informed commissioners that Indiana Civil Rights Commission (ICRC) has scheduled a public hearing in Evansville on February 12, 9:00 am – 8:45 pm at Central Library Browning Room. Their Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will adjudicate the case. The case is an employment race case. The hearing may not last the entire time and the director shared this information in the event commissioners may be available to attend to view the process considering an ALJ process has been recommended for HRC.

Open Discussion on Community Issues –

Commissioner Burton commented on the meeting that Connie Robinson-Blair and Memorial CDC hosted regarding crime in the community. He reported that there will be a follow-up meeting at Memorial Baptist Church on February 1.

Chairperson Dion and Director Clements-Boyd are members of the Indiana Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights. The commission is currently

investigating voting rights in Indiana and the commission is hosting a community forum to hear about voting experiences in the state. The meeting is open to the public and the tentative date is Saturday February 17, 11:30 am-1:00 pm at Central Library Browning Room. The director suggested holding a public forum in the southern part of the state, hence the meeting in Vanderburgh County. There will also be a meeting in Lake County. The director reported if the federal government shuts down the meeting will be rescheduled because ICRC has to be present.

Commissioners' Remarks

The activities planned by UE for Martin Luther King Day will be rescheduled and there is no known date. Information will be sent when it is received.

Commissioner Dion reported to commissioners that Indiana is one of only five states in the country that does not have a hate crimes law. The bill has passed the Senate before but has not gotten past the House. His suggestion for the next meeting is to have a resolution from this commission to encourage local lawmakers to support passage of Bill 418. If it is not too late he would like this added to the agenda for February.

Commissioners Davis and Jenkins moved and seconded respectively to adjourn.