



LLOYD WINNECKE
MAYOR

City of Evansville – Vanderburgh County
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

DIANE CLEMENTS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**COMMISSION BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 31, 2016
CIVIC CENTER, ROOM 307**

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Alex Burton
Gerald Arnold
Brenda Murry-Pittman
Tim Black
Estella Moss
Bob Dion
Jayson Munoz

STAFF PRESENT:

Diane Clements, Executive Director
Bonnie Fox

David Kent, Commission Counsel

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

Roll was called with the above named commissioners and staff present.

It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Black and Munoz respectively to accept the minutes of the June meeting. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sponsorship Requests –

The Committee to Promote Respect in Schools (CYPRESS) –

HRC has received a request for financial support from CYPRESS, who will sponsor a public talk by Dr. Terrence Roberts on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2016 at Memorial Baptist Church. Dr. Roberts will also visit three (3) schools in the area on Wednesday and Thursday of that week. Dr. Roberts is one of the Little Rock Nine who participated in

the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. By offering financial support to assist with the expenses HRC is named as a Co-Sponsor for the event. The director's recommendation is to support this cause in the amount of \$500.00. It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Burton and Munoz respectively to offer financial support for the recommended amount. The commissioners voted unanimously.

African American Museum Colour of Humanity Gala –
Request for sponsorship for Annual Gala on October 28th, 2016. The director's recommendation is the Supporter level at \$500.00, to include four (4) seats at the Gala. It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Black and Arnold respectively to support the event at the recommended level. The commissioners voted unanimously.

Family Day in the Park (FDITP) –
HRC has had a booth in the past for FDITP and some commissioners think the presence of the HRC booth is needed as this is a big event for the community. The information that has been passed out in the past has been helpful. Chairperson Dion reminded commissioners that the booth needs to be staffed and the commissioners' help is needed. HRC has been a Target Sponsor for \$750.00 which includes the tent, half page color ad in event guide, tickets to VIP reception and other credentials. It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Murry-Pittman and Burton respectively for the commission to be a Target Sponsor. The commissioners voted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Dinner –

The tentative date for the dinner is October 13th which is agreeable for the mayor and the venue. Commissioners Arnold and Munoz moved and seconded respectively to lock in this date and the commissioners voted unanimously on the date. Chairperson Dion reported that several speakers have been contacted and were not available or were out of the HRC budget range. Several names of potential speakers were given and the commissioners were asked to choose a speaker to be voted on or a motion to empower the committee to choose a speaker at a committee meeting to be scheduled within the next week. He reported that Marc Morial, National Urban League President, is available and affordable.

Attorney Kent reported if the commissioners are empowering the committee to choose a speaker they are also empowering the committee to spend money and that has to be done in a public setting. He recommended putting a cap how much the committee is to spend and the problem is solved.

Commissioners were concerned with the timeline, which is approximately six weeks, to try to put the dinner together. That would include finding a speaker and working on all other aspects of the dinner, they just don't think it is feasible. After much discussion it was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Black and Munoz to forgo the dinner for this year, the commissioners voted unanimously to not have the dinner.

Public Hearings – Update

Anderson v. Arby's –

The hearing is scheduled for September 28-29, 2016. Five commissioners are needed and must be able to stay throughout the entire hearing. The hearing will start at 9:00 am in the civic center. Both parties are represented by counsel. Attorney Kent will start the hearing

with the preliminary investigation and the probable cause finding and then he will turn it over to the complainant's attorney.

Ross v. Shannon Glen Apartments –

Both parties have asked for a joint continuance. It could not be scheduled by the end of December so they are now hoping for the second or third week in January.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The director's monthly report for May, June and July were passed out.

COMMISSIONER REMARKS:

George Takei, sponsored by the Diversity Lecture Series will be September 27, 2016 at the Victory Theater.

City Council was friendly to the HRC budget request but the county commissioners want to cut HRC out of the county budget.

It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Arnold and Murry-Pittman respectively to adjourn the meeting.