



LLOYD WINNECKE
MAYOR

City of Evansville – Vanderburgh County
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

DIANE CLEMENTS-BOYD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One N.W. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
209 Civic Center Complex • Evansville, IN 47708
(812) 436-4927 (Voice) • TDD: (812) 436-4928 • FAX: (812) 436-4929

**COMMISSION BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2016
CIVIC CENTER, ROOM 307**

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Alex Burton
Ruby McGlown
Gerald Arnold
Robert Dion
Tim Black
Rick Kueber
Brenda Murry-Pittman

STAFF PRESENT:

Diane Clements-Boyd, Executive Director
Bonnie Fox

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

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

It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Kueber and McGlown respectively to accept the minutes of the September meeting. Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the minutes as read.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sponsorship Requests –

There was a request from NAACP for The Freedom Fund Banquet for purchase of a sponsorship or tickets/ad. The recommendation from the director is to purchase eight (8) tickets @ \$35.00 each and a full page color ad @ \$200.00 for a total of \$480.00.

Commissioners expressed the importance of attendance at the event therefore a recommendation was made to purchase sixteen (16) tickets, two (2) tables @ \$35.00 each

for a total of \$560.00 and Commissioner Arnold offered to furnish the ad. The commissioners asked that tables be filled with students and/or senior citizens who serve as tutors for third grade students for the Carver after school program if the commission has trouble getting people to attend. It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Black and Arnold respectively to purchase the sixteen (16) tickets for the NAACP banquet. Commissioners voted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Dinner –

Director Clements-Boyd reported receiving several calls about the annual dinner after the press release from the mayor's office announcing that the 2016 dinner was postponed. Most of the calls were inquiring if the dinner will be in the spring or fall in 2017. After researching the materials, the director reported that all of the dinners were held in the fall with the exception of one and it was held in June 2009, in conjunction with the Annual Consortium that was hosted by Evansville HRC that year. Commissioners Kueber and Murry-Pittman motioned and seconded respectively for the dinner to be in the fall. Commissioners voted unanimously for a fall date for the annual dinner.

The director reported that she has been in contact with a Speakers Bureau on the availability of Rev. William Barber. The Speakers Bureau have requested exact dates. The date has not been finalized but tentative dates will likely be in September or October. The director reported that the speaker and the Mayor's availability need to coincide with the venue availability. The Speakers Bureau have not yet quoted his fee. The director will continue to work with the Speakers Bureau.

Public Hearings – Update

Ross v. Shannon Glen Apartments –

The hearing is scheduled for January 17-18, 2017. This is a fair housing case and the first public hearing housing case for the commission. Chairperson Dion will be on a teaching assignment and unable to attend the proceedings. Five (5) commissioners are needed for the hearing and commissioners must be able to stay for the duration of the hearing. The commissioners will need to select someone to chair the proceedings.

The director discussed the possibility of giving commissioners informational packets at the November meeting regarding Fair Housing terminology law, the statute and the hearing process.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The director presented her monthly report for September.

Director Clements-Boyd reported that vouchers have been submitted to HUD and EEOC for final payment for the year. The Human Relations Commissions will be receiving approximately \$100,000 in federal funds soon. There will be funds received from HUD for training and these funds are to be used for training only. Director Clements-Boyd reported that Investigator Jamila Smith will be attending NFHTA (National Fair Housing Training Academy) in January. The director reminded commissioners that there are opportunities for commissioners to attend NFHTA also. The new schedule for NFHTA will be available in November and the director will forward the information to commissioners.

The director reported on the expungement forum on Saturday at Central Library 10 am-noon. The late civil rights activist Marvaline Prince will be honored at the forum. The expungement is made possible through grant money received from EEOC. The director reported that a moderator is needed for the forum. Judge Wayne Trockman has been asked to give opening remarks on Saturday. He has a prior commitment on that day and time but he is trying to break his previous commitment in order to be in attendance on Saturday. Nick Hermann, Prosecuting Attorney will speak on his role in the expungement process in addition to Judge Les Shively of Superior Court (most of the cases are heard in Superior Court). There will be a panel discussion of attorneys who take on these cases. Kevin Gibson, Executive Director of Legal Aid, Kathryn Rybak of Indiana Legal Services and Shaunda Lynch of Foster, O'Daniel, Hambidge and Lynch, LLC will speak on a more practical level on the statute.

Open Discussion on Community Issues –

Director Clements-Boyd asked the commissioners to decide what kind of commission they would like to be, if they want to just come in and meet once a month or if they want to be a commission to go out and be recognized in the community, and to address issues that have civil rights impact in the community. It was reported that HRC can also partner with other groups in the city who are making an impact. Commissioners reported that HRC should not shoulder all the work, but partner with other organizations that could help lead community discussions. Commissioners voiced opinions on having evening meetings periodically in hopes of getting citizens to get out and meet the Human Relations Commission and sound. Commissioner Arnold reported that the NAACP would sponsor a meet and greet on behalf of the commission.

Evansville Area Black Chamber of Commerce –

Commissioner Burton reported that he is employed by Old National Bank but he is on special assignment creating the EABCC which is chartered through the National Black Chamber of Commerce and the project is to create a mission and a five-year goal. Commissioner Burton reported that the Southwest Chamber's politics were different from the Black Chamber which is why the groups are separate. The approach for EABCC is three-pronged – to grow and attract black businesses, work with existing entities and to work with middle and high school students to get them career ready.

COMMISSIONER REMARKS:

Commissioner Arnold reported that the next BRIDGE meeting will be November 21st, 4:00 pm, 501 John Street in the conference room.

It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Arnold and Kueber respectively to adjourn.

REMINDER:

Due to Thanksgiving Holiday the next commission meeting will be at noon on November 16th at noon. December meeting is on December 14th.