



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
DECEMBER 14, 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

David Kent, Commission Counsel

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.

There were two (2) sets of minutes presented to commissioners for approval due to lack of a quorum at the November meeting. It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Burton and Murry-Pittman respectively to accept the minutes of the October meeting. It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners McGlown and Burton respectively to accept the minutes of the November meeting. Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the October and November minutes as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sponsorship Requests –

Baptist Ministers and Deacons Alliance –

There was a request from the Ministers and Deacons Alliance for HRC support of the

Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet that will be January 7, 2017 at The Old National Events Plaza. The keynote speaker for the event will be the Honorable Judge Greg Mathis. The recommendation was to purchase four (4) tickets and an ad to total \$500.00.

Commissioner Arnold reported that a not for profit sponsorship level was available to include eight (8) banquet tickets and ad for no more than \$600.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Kueber and seconded by Commissioner Black to sponsor the not for profit level. Commissioners voted unanimously.

WNIN-Black History Ads –

The request is for multiple television spots lasting 15 seconds. The amount for the ad is \$1,000.00 and the ads will air February – May. It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners McGlown and Murry-Pittman respectively to grant the request. The commissioners voted unanimously. The director will find out if the funds can be taken from the housing account due to the availability of extra funds in that account.

Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana Proposal –

HRC has received partnership funds from HUD, and the funds were used for fair housing training. Yvette Payne was under contract to conduct the training. In collaboration agreement and assessment from HUD, they have suggested to focus on testing and different areas. The director contacted The Fair Housing Center who submitted a proposal that has since been forwarded to HUD for review. Amy Nelson, one of the presenters for the Consortium, directs the only private Fair Housing Center in Indiana and the center receives Fair Housing funding from HUD. The director anticipates approval from HUD on the proposal. The amount is for \$19,000 and will be for 12 – 14 months. If testing done, it will be a blind process and HRC will not know where the testing is being done until the project is completed and the report is submitted to HRC.

Ordinance Revisions –

The director reported that the Municipal Equality Index, how cities are rated in terms of policies on LGBT communities, raised the HRC score due to some of the events sponsored by HRC and the language in the ordinance, however there is nothing in the ordinance that addresses employment discrimination, according to the Human Rights Campaign standards. Their counsel provided the language for the ordinance for employment discrimination and public accommodations to include gender identification. It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Arnold and Burton respectively to recommend the ordinance changes to the City Council. The commissioners voted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Outreach and Education –

The director had shared with the commissioners previously a calendar of events planned for HRC in 2017. The director had a proposal of three (3) areas of focus to include Disability Accessibility, Race in America and what other cities are doing to involve Government in discussions on being inclusive, and how the policies and practices can be more inclusive. Chairperson Dion raised awareness to a focus session on Immigrants being of value. The director will update the calendar and send it to the commissioners.

Annual Dinner –

The dates were narrowed to September 26, 28 and October 3, 2017. The director has received no confirmation from Rev. Barber. The director did receive an email from Rev.

Barber's administrative assistant wanting the particulars for the event. The director sent the requested information and has not heard from them. A fee has not been received. Commissioner Arnold will reach out to Rev. Barber to get information from him. The director is hoping to get confirmation by January or the commission will have to try to make more contacts.

Public Hearings – Update

Ross v. Shannon Glen Apartments –

The hearing is scheduled for January 17-18, 2017. HRC Counsel David Kent has not heard from the attorneys for either side. He reminded the commissioners that five commissioners are needed for the hearing and they must stay through the entire hearing. The director told commissioners that someone is needed to preside over the hearing. Four commissioners have committed to being present, if they are reappointed. Director Clements-Boyd asked all commissioners to check their schedules and let her know if they will be available for the public hearing.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The director presented her monthly report for November.

The director reminded Commissioners Burton, Kueber, Arnold and Murry-Pittman that their terms expire on December 31, and if they are interested in continuing on the board, they should contact the appropriate appointing boards.

HRC has purchased eight tickets for the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day luncheon at USI if anyone is interested. Cornell William Brooks, President and CEO of the NAACP, will be the keynote speaker. The director stressed the importance of the commission showing support.

There will be a unity march on Inauguration Day, January 20, beginning at Four Freedoms Monument or the Civic Center to Central Library where there will be a Fairness Fair.

University of Evansville is sponsoring a Hate Crime Forum on Inauguration Day as well. Senator Greg Porter, the sponsor of the Hate Crime Bill and Vaneta Becker will be on the panel.

COMMISSIONER REMARKS:

Commissioner Burton reported on the Transgender Day of Remembrance that held on November 20, 2016. The commissioners received a copy of the resolution that Commissioner Burton read.

Commissioner Burton reported that on Monday, December 19 the Evansville Black Chamber of Commerce (EABCC) is holding its Holiday Party at Sauced. He invited everyone to attend and purchase a membership.

It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Burton and Murry-Pittman respectively to adjourn.