

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes of October 25, 2021 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 2021. Present for this meeting were commissioners Ryne Shadday, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Byron Bangert and Valeri Haughton-Motley. A quorum was present. Absent without notice were commissioners Pam Jackson, Erin McAlister and Latosha Williams. Also present were Nicole DeCriscio Bowe, BHRC assistant, and Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

Roll call: Chair Shadday called the roll at 5:35 p.m.

Approval of minutes of September 27, 2021 Meeting: Haughton-Motley moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Calloway-Thomas seconded. Shadday called the roll; passed unanimously.

Unfinished business

Webpage update: McKinney said that the update was nearly complete and should be completed by the November meeting. She asked the commissioners to review it and give their input. She said that she had met with Margie Rice to discuss it. Because it is apparently not feasible to have a link to quickly let people know if their complaint occurred inside the city limits, in the unincorporated areas of the county outside of the city limits or in the incorporated areas of the county outside of the city limits, we won't quite have the parallel city and county HRC sites we wanted, but it will be close. Shadday asked McKinney to push ITS a bit more on this issue.

Human rights award: McKinney said that we would soon begin soliciting nominations for the 2022 human rights award. We will have an article about it in the November newsletter, include it on Facebook and issue a city press release. She said she would send information to the commissioners to send along to their contacts.

2022 goals and objectives: None of the commissioners had anything to add to the previous discussion.

Lead Forward Community Grants Program: DeCriscio Bowe reviewed the grant application she prepared and the accompanying budget. Bangert said that to really come off, recruitment of attendees will be a key factor. McKinney said that the Monroe County Apartment Association and the Chamber of Commerce might be able to help with that. Shadday suggested including advertising on Facebook in the budget. Haughton-Motley moved that the grant application be approved, with Shadday's amendment to include Facebook advertising in the budget. Bangert seconded. Shadday

called the roll; passed unanimously. The commissioners and McKinney thanked DeCriscio Bowe for her work. Calloway-Thomas suggested using service students in the project.

Essay/art contest: McKinney noted that she had sent some possible covid-19 themes to the commissioners. Calloway-Thomas said she liked the theme, “Challenges and Opportunities of a Post Covid-19 World.” Haughton-Motley suggested dropping “Post” from the theme since we are not yet in a post covid-19 world. The commissioners agreed it could be challenging to write a description of the issues for younger students. Bangert asked that the description include something about where your rights end when they affect others; what are our rights and responsibilities to others.

New business

Third quarterly report: After discussion, Calloway-Thomas moved that the director’s third quarterly report for 2021 be approved as presented. Haughton-Motley seconded. Shadday called the roll; passed unanimously.

Donation to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

Commission: After discussion, the BHRC agreed to donate up to \$250 to the King Day Commission for its 2022 celebration. If the City can’t contribute the full \$250, the commissioners agreed to make up the difference individually so that the BHRC will be listed in publicity materials. Calloway-Thomas so moved; Bangert seconded. Shadday called the roll; passed unanimously.

Assignment of new cases: McKinney reported that the BHRC had one new case to assign, a complaint of race discrimination in public accommodations. Haughton-Motley agreed to investigate it.

Other business: No other business.

Public input: No public input.

Adjournment: Haughton-Motley moved that the meeting be adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney