



**City of Bloomington
Human Rights
Commission**

**Minutes of April 17, 2023 Meeting
5:00 p.m.
Hooker Conference Room, City Hall**

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023, in the Hooker Conference Room of Showers City Hall.

Present for this meeting were Commissioners Ryne Shadday, Emma Williams, Byron Bangert, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Erin McAlister, and Tonda Radewan. A quorum was present. Also present were BRHC Director Michael Shermis, City Attorney Audrey Brittingham, and Legal Administrative Assistant, Ashley Sparks.

Call to order: Shadday called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.:

Preliminary Matters: Commissioners welcomed new Commissioner, Williams.

Contract Compliance Committee: Brittingham discussed the bid from Reed & Sons. All forms have been updated to reflect the rule of submitting the Affirmative Action form 24 business hours prior to the deadline. Contract Compliance Committee adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of January 23, 2023 Meeting: Bangert moved to approve minutes of March 20, 2023. McAlister seconded. Passed unanimously.

Report from Staff:

- i. Shermis introduced Eric Agyemang-Dang, candidate for Commission on the Status of Black Males (CSBM). Commissioners interviewed Mr. Agyemang-Dang. Questions presented included such topics as: moments of pride taken in his work, level of involvement outside of the IU community, level of knowledge regarding the CSBM, what he hopes to accomplish if part of the CSBM, what changes he hopes to initiate in the community of Black males, and what issues he sees as the biggest struggles in Bloomington's community of Black males. Discussions ensued.
- ii. Stream of information is still coming in via online intake forms. Radewan suggested website updates to ensure current information is present anywhere the intake form is available.
- iii. Feedback on the *Rights Stuff* newsletter was requested by Shermis. Williams asked about the potential for changes on the layout of printed versions. Radewan suggested additional locations for distribution of printed newsletters.

Reports from Commissioners

- A. Bangert, Calloway-Thomas, Shadday, and Williams -had no reports.
- B. McAlister discussed continuing issues in the school system. Request for attendance and discussion will be sent to Dr. Markay Winston, Assistant Superintendent for Monroe County Community School Corporation. Topics for said discussion were brought forth.
- C. Radewan discussed Monroe County Community Health Improvement Plan. She stated that there have been recent discussions involving discrimination in housing. Suggestions were made surrounding the advertisement of the BHRC's services. Issue of the ability of the public to make anonymous reports to the BHRC was discussed. Shermis will look into this.

Unfinished Business

- A. Human Rights Award was discussed. In light of new information and issues surrounding a nomination, voting postponed to May meeting.
- B. Essay/Art Contest Theme winner is anticipated to be decided upon within the week.
- C. Merger of BHRC and MCHRC discussed. Interlocal agreement still not signed. Process of merger and appointment of Commissioners was discussed.

Open Cases

- A. Sexual harassment case for Haughton has interviews scheduled for this week.
- B. McAlister's sexual orientation case is almost ready for interviews to be scheduled.
- C. Religious discrimination case is pending official withdrawal. Anticipated to be officially withdrawn by May's meeting.
- D. Racial discrimination case for Bangert was discussed. A settlement was presented and rejected.

New Cases

- A. Disability and mental health case was assigned to Radewan. An EEOC affidavit has been agreed upon and is expected to be signed this week.

Other Business

- i. Radewan asked about the length of the meetings. Discussion ensued.
- ii. CSBM candidate discussed and vote was taken. Vote to appoint was unanimous.

Adjournment: Shadday adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.