

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes of April 23, 2018 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met on April 23, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the McCloskey Conference Room of Showers City Hall. Present for this meeting in whole or in part were commissioners Irena Micajkova Otten, Byron Bangert, Ryne Shadday, Valerie Haughton Motley and Rhonda Gambill. A quorum was present. Commissioner Calloway-Thomas was absent without notice. Also present were several IU students, Marc Haggerty, Bruce Anderson and Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

Approval of minutes of March 26, 2018 Contract Compliance Committee meeting: The CCC of the BHRC approved the minutes by consensus.

Approval of minutes of March 26, 2018 Human Rights Commission meeting: The BHRC approved the minutes by consensus.

Unfinished business

VITAL quiz bowl: Rights Stuff, represented by Bangert, Haughton-Motley, Shadday and City Clerk Nicole Bolden, were scheduled to compete right after the BHRC meeting. UPDATE: Rights Stuff lost in the first round the team from South Central Community Action Program.

Singing event: Micajkova said that the project was still a work in progress, but people are cooperating and it looks like we will have a program at the market. She will have more details at a later BHRC meeting.

Cross commission bicentennial event update: Gambill reported that the group had released a press release, which she will share with the group. They are soliciting donations for the reception and/or for art supplies. Haughton Motley moved that the BHRC donate \$50 to the cause, subject to the approval of the corporation counsel. Gambill seconded. Passed unanimously. Bangert asked how many commissions are working on this project; Gambill said she thought five or six.

Essay/art contest: McKinney and Shadday reported that the awards ceremony went smoothly. McKinney noted that the winning art was still on display in the Showers hall display cabinet and will be through the end of April, fair housing

Assignment of new case: Shadday accepted a case alleging race discrimination in employment.

Public input:

Bruce Anderson talked about the dangers of dental fillings and EHS. He believes these cause mental illnesses and other problems. He has tried to get the Monroe County Health Department to address the issue. Haughton-Motley asked Anderson what he wanted the BHRC to do; he said the BHRC could do what a doctor in California is trying to do, create new standards and awareness. If we don't, there will be more Trayvon Martins.

Marc Haggerty said that there are problems with the jail since the new sheriff took over. He said there had been two suicides and one death in the jail. His group, New Life New Leaf, has lost access. The jail's population sometimes exceeds the maximum allowed under the consent decree.

Haughton-Motley noted that this is a not an issue for the BHRC, that the jail is controlled by the sheriff and the board of judges, and that they are very mindful about reducing the population as required by the decree.

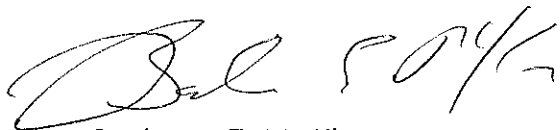
Haggerty said that he wants to raise public awareness. He said NL/NL is scared that it could be kicked out of the jail and doesn't want to complain. They are sending former inmates to a MCHRC meeting to complain instead of sending board members.

Bangert noted that the MCHRC has been educating itself on jail issues.

Haggerty said the jail is a dismal and poorly designed place. He said that the Board of Judges should meet in public.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara E. McKinney
BHRC Director/Assistant City Attorney