

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes of January 22, 2018 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met at 5:30 on January 22, 2018, in the Kelly Conference Room. Present for this meeting were commissioners Byron Bangert, Rhonda Gambill, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas and Ryne Shadday. Commissioners Haughton Motley and Micajkova Otten had notified staff that they could not attend. A quorum was present. Also present was Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

Approval of minutes of December 18, 2017 Contract Compliance Committee meeting: The CCC minutes were approved unanimously by consensus.

Approval of minutes of December 18, 2017 BHRC meeting: Bangert moved that Pride be changed to PRIDE in the minutes. Calloway-Thomas asked that a hyphen be included in her name. The BHRC minutes as amended were approved unanimously by consensus.

Unfinished business

Human Rights award update: McKinney reported that she had contacted the chair of PRIDE, who was delighted to hear her group had won the award. McKinney had not yet tried to pin down a date for the presentation, wanting to first learn who the 2018 chair of the BHRC would be and then check that person's availability. The BHRC asked McKinney to go ahead and schedule a meeting and someone from the BHRC will be available to present the award, perhaps Gambill, who nominated PRIDE.

International children's singing event: Tabled in Micajkova Otten's absence.

Cross-commission bicentennial contest update: Gambill and Calloway-Thomas reported that they, and McKinney, had attended an organizational meeting. Gambill and Calloway-Thomas are working on a draft of contest guidelines. Tentative plans are to have the winner(s) selected by the 4th of July so they can possibly be featured in the parade.

Legislative update: The BHRC reviewed the list of bills pending before the state house that McKinney thought they would be interested in. The commissioners discussed how to advocate SB 285, which would add sexual orientation and

gender identity to the state's civil rights law. McKinney will reach out to her counterparts and urge them to contact their legislators in support of the bill.

New business

Election of 2018 officers: Given that two commissioners could not attend the January meeting, and that there is one vacancy, the commissioners agreed to table this agenda item until no later than the February meeting. Bangert said he was willing to relinquish the chair if someone else wants to take over, or remain.

Fourth quarterly report of 2017: After discussion, Calloway-Thomas moved that the report be approved as presented. Gambill seconded. Passed unanimously.

2017 annual report: Shadday noted that he did not have a page 16 in his annual report. Bangert noted that the letter "f" had been deleted from the word "frequent" in his statement in the annual report. McKinney said she would correct the spelling and send a complete report, including page 16, to the commissioners. She asked the commissioners to let her know if they see any other errors or omissions before she distributes it in early February. The BHRC unanimously approved the report, subject to potential typographical corrections.

Settlement agreement – Shadday and McKinney: Shadday and McKinney reported that a gender-fluid individual had gone to a nonprofit agency, wanting to pick up men's clothes from their donated supplies of clothes. The employee refused to provide such clothes to the individual, viewing the person as female. The agency receives very few men's clothes and limits them to people they perceive as men. The individual was upset by this interaction and filed a complaint. The agency agreed to settle by changing its policy to allow people access to the clothes that correspond with their gender identity. McKinney said she wrote a small article for the February newsletter asking people to donate men's clothes to the agency. Shadday moved that the settlement agreement be approved as presented. Gambill seconded. Passed unanimously.

Bloomington United update: McKinney reported that Bloomington United had recently re-organized, hoping to be ready if hateful incidents happen in Bloomington, and also wanting to organize some educational activities. She said that BU yard signs are available for free in Showers and other locations, but donations are gratefully accepted. Shadday mentioned a hate incident that

had happened in W. Lafayette over the weekend involving homophobic and racial slurs on large banners, along with a reference to Jackson Browne.

VITAL quiz bowl: The BHRC agreed to sponsor the Rights Stuff in the 2018 VITAL quiz bowl. Bangert donated \$20 cash.

Assignment of new cases: McKinney said she had no new cases to assign, but she was doing an intake the next day that may lead to a case. Shadday agreed to take it if it did.

Other business: Bangert urged the commissioners to read a recent column in the HT about the weakness of the state's civil rights laws. McKinney will send out a copy.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,


Barbara E. McKinney