

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes of March 28, 2022 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 28, 2022. Present in person for this meeting, which was held in McCloskey, were commissioners Byron Bangert, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Valeri Haughton-Motley, Pam Jackson, Ryne Shadday and Latosha Williams. Present virtually for part of the meeting was commissioner Erin McAlister. Also present were Nicole DeCriscio Bowe, BHRC assistant, and Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director.

Call to order: Chair Shadday called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of minutes of January 24, 2022 BHRC meeting: Bangert moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Jackson seconded. Passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes of February 23, 2022 joint BHRC/MCHRC meeting: Bangert noted a correction. Calloway-Thomas moved that the minutes be approved as corrected. Jackson seconded. Passed unanimously.

Reports from commissioners: Bangert noted that the MCHRC is reviewing the BHRC's web page and planning to incorporate much of it for its web page. McKinney said that the BHRC web page had recently been cited on Reddit Bloomington to assist an individual who said he has been subjected to a homophobic slur at a Bloomington store. Williams said she had heard about a bias incident on campus and had been told that it would be reported to the BHRC. McKinney said it had not been.

Unfinished business

Human Rights Award: After discussion of the two nominations, Williams moved that the BHRC award Sandy Keller the 2022 Human Rights Award. Calloway-Thomas seconded. Passed unanimously. McKinney will notify Keller and will work with Shadday to present the award.

2022 Goals and Objectives: Shadday said that the draft goals and objectives McKinney had prepared was what he was looking for. The commissioners reviewed some of the goals and objectives.

Revisiting the ordinance: McKinney explained the limitations on what the BHRC can do, given constraints of the state's enabling law. Williams said she would like the ordinance to focus on enforcement, education and advocacy. Bangert said he thought that was already the case.

Increasing the visibility of the BHRC: Some of the commissioners agreed to be more active in providing information for the Facebook page;

they will email ideas to DeCriscio Bowe or add them to the google document. DeCriscio Bowe said she could now share Rights Stuff via the page. The website has been updated; McKinney said she welcomed additional ideas.

Speakers on BHRC issues: The commissioners agreed that the Lilly grant was helping us achieve this goal in 2022.

Other publicity possibilities: The commissioners agreed to try to participate in more public events. The BHRC is currently sponsoring the essay/arts contest, publishing the monthly newsletter, expanding the mailing list as needed, planning to recognize the human rights award winner and updating brochures as appropriate.

The commissioners agreed to review the rest of the goals and objectives in April.

Essay/art contest: McKinney said the deadline to submit entries has passed. She and DeCriscio Bowe will get the essays to the essay judges and work with the art judges to come up with a time to look at the art.

Lead Forward community grant update: McKinney said that the first box lunch, with the Chamber, had gone well, with 30 participants. The commissioners decided to do the clean-up day on 5/21 or 6/4.

Annual report: McKinney said that the report had been finalized and posted on the web page.

Future of Policing Task Force update: Calloway-Thomas said that the task force is writing its report, which should be published in about two weeks. She said she would share it with the commissioners.

New business

Notice requirement for virtual participation in hybrid BHRC meetings: The commissioners agreed by consensus that when the electronic meeting policy says commissioners must give three days' notice of their intent to participate in a meeting virtually, that means three calendar days, not three business days.

Assignment of new cases: McAlister agreed to help investigate a new complaint alleging discrimination in housing on the basis of disability.

Other business: No other business.

Public input: No public input.

Adjournment: Calloway-Thomas moved that the meeting be adjourned at 6:25 p.m. Approved by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. McKinney, director, BHRC/assistant city attorney