

## BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

### Minutes of April 25, 2022 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 25, 2022. Present in person for this meeting, which was held in the McCloskey Conference Room, were commissioners Ryne Shadday, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Ryne Shadday, Byron Bangert and Erin McAlister. Present virtually was Latosha Williams. Commissioners Pam Jackson and Valeri Haughton-Motley had given notice that they could not attend. Also present were Nicole DeCriscio Bowe, BHRC assistant; Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney, and McAlister's daughter Maliah.

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

**COVID-19 restrictions:** McKinney read a statement from the mayor's office about the City's lifting of COVID-19 room capacity limits and advice about wearing masks or participating virtually.

**Roll call:** Shadday called the roll.

**Approval of minutes of March 28, 2022 BHRC meeting:** Bangert moved that the minutes be approved as presented. McAlister seconded. Passed unanimously.

**Reports from commissioners:** McAlister said that she remains concerned about racist language at schools and the system's response. She said she looks forward to Dr. Winston attending a future BHRC meeting and exploring what the BHRC can do in response.

#### Unfinished business

**Human rights award:** McKinney said that Shadday will present the BHRC's 2022 human rights award to Sandy Keller at the Bloomington council meeting on Wednesday, June 1, 2022, beginning at 6:30m p.m. McAlister said that Keller had been blown away by the recognition and that she values it more than any other award she has received.

**2022 goals and objectives:** Shadday tabled this agenda item until more commissioners are present.

**Essay/art contest:** McKinney said that thanks to the judges, the winners have been selected. The awards ceremony will be on May 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers. The teachers of the winning students will be notified this week.

**Lead Forward Lilly Grant update:** McKinney reminded the commissioners that we had requested grant funds for four activities: a talk to employers on fair employment, a talk to landlords on fair housing, a diversity/equity/inclusion event and a neighborhood clean-up day.

She gave the fair employment talk to Chamber members in March and the grant paid for box lunches for participants.

She had been working with two people who work on eviction issues to organize a fair housing program. They had hoped to work with the Monroe County Apartment Association to put on a program during fair housing month, April, but that didn't work with MCAA's calendar. The MCAA invited McKinney to speak on disability discrimination in housing at their April meeting. McKinney will do that but no grant money will be required for that event.

McKinney suggested that the BHRC could staff a table at the Tenant Resource Fair, to be held during the farmers' market on May 21. We could see if the grant funds could be used to pay for pens or note pads with BHRC information to distribute during the fair. Bangert said he was opposed to distributing items that are not likely to be used.

McKinney said she has learned that the chamber and others have been conducting DEI training, and she was not sure there was a community need for the BHRC to do more. She said she had no real expertise in that specific area and did not to overlap work others had done.

Williams said she felt there was enough competencies on the commission, or such expertise could be developed, for the BHRC to provide DEI training. McAlister said perhaps something could be done with MCCSC. McKinney reminded the commissioners that the grant money has to be spent by the end of June or be refunded to the grantor. Williams agreed to send out an email to start the conversation. Any final decision can be made at the May BHRC meeting or at a special meeting if necessary.

The commissioners agreed by consensus to hold the clean-up day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 4 in the area between Rogers Street, Adams Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Street. DeCriscio Bowe has been in contact with the county solid waste district, which will provide many of the necessary materials and will pick up the trash when we are done. We will use grant money to buy t-shirts and supplies not provided by the solid waste district. DeCriscio and McKinney will get the necessary approval from the Board of Public Works.

Calloway-Thomas asked if we will notify the neighborhood beforehand; we will try.

McKinney said all grant funds not used by the BHRC will revert to Lilly.

**Future of Policing task force:** Calloway-Thomas said she can't share the substance of the report yet, but will share it with the commissioners when it is ready.

**New business**

**Director's first quarterly report 2022:** After discussion, Calloway-Thomas moved that the first quarterly report be approved as presented. McAlister seconded. Shadday took the roll; approved unanimously.

**Fourth of July parade:** The commissioners agreed to participate in the 2022 parade; details to come.

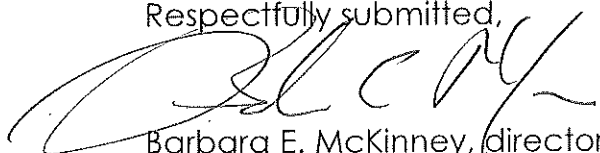
**Assignment of new cases:** McAlister accepted a new case alleging discrimination in housing on the basis of a disability.

**Other business:** No other business.

**Public input:** No public input.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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