

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes of May 23, 2022 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 23, 2022, in the McCloskey Conference Room. Present for this meeting were commissioners Ryne Shadday, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Valeri Haughton-Motley and Bryon Bangert. Commissioners Pam Jackson, Latosha Williams and Erin McAllister had given notice they could not attend. Also present was Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

Call to order: Chair Shadday called the meeting to order at 5:32 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: No roll call since all members attending the meeting were in person.

Approval of minutes from April 25, 2022 BHRC meeting: Calloway-Thomas moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Haughton-Motley seconded. Passed unanimously.

Reports from commissioners: Calloway-Thomas reported that she had gone to the essay/arts award ceremony and that she had been impressed by the enthusiasm of both the students and their parents.

Shadday noted that the city is posting more on Facebook, and that a number of people had made angry comments under the posting about the BHRC contest. The comments were not directed to the BHRC but to the mayor in general. He said the BHRC should expect more vitriol in the future in that context.

Unfinished business

Human Rights Award update: Shadday said that he would be presenting the 2022 human rights award to Sandy Keller at the beginning of the Bloomington Common Council meeting on 6/1/22. The meeting begins at 6:30. All commissioners are welcome to attend.

2022 goals and objectives: In the absence of several commissioners, Shadday tabled this agenda item. McKinney suggested the commissioners might want to discuss this topic at the next meeting as long as there is a quorum, given that will be the half-way point of the year.

Essay/arts award ceremony: Both Calloway-Thomas and McKinney reported that the ceremony had gone very well. McKinney said the photos

will be posted on our Facebook page soon and some will be included in the June newsletter.

Lead Forward Community grant update: Shadday asked McKinney to follow up with Williams about whether she had received any response to her email about DEI training. McKinney agreed. She said that we have spent grant money on the box lunches for the Chamber talk, and will spend money on equipment and t-shirts for the clean-up day on June 4. She will send out more information about the clean-up date soon.

Future of Policing Task Force: Calloway-Thomas said its latest report was released today and encouraged everyone to read it. She said they hope to study come comparable cities to see how we compare as far as the size of the police force, the pay, crime statistics and whether they use tasers, among other topics. Comparable cities they may study include Iowa City, Little Rock, Arkansas and Madison, Wisconsin. They plan to hold another public meeting and hope to have more attendance at the next one.

Fourth of July parade: McKinney confirmed that the City will be sponsoring a parade this year, in the traditional format (unlike the reverse parade in 2021). All members present agreed that the BHRC should participate in the 2022 parade. The MCHRC will likely join us. The parade will be on Monday, July 4, beginning at 10 a.m. Staging will be in the vicinity of Showers City Hall. McKinney will follow up with an email to the commissioners about what vehicle to use, whether we should attempt to have a float, etc.

New business: No new business.

Assignment of new cases: Calloway-Thomas accepted a case alleging discrimination in housing on the basis of disability.

Other business: No other business.

Public input: No public input.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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