

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes of August 22, 2022 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, August 22, 2022, in the McCloskey Conference Room of Showers City Hall. Present for this meeting were commissioners Ryne Shadday, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Byron Bangert, Valeri Haughton-Motley and Erin McAlister. A quorum was present. Commissioner Pam Jackson was absent without notice. Also present were Nicole DeCriscio Bowe, BHRC assistant, and Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

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

Roll call: No roll call required as all members attending the meeting were present in person.

Approval of minutes from July 23, 2022 meeting: Bangert moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Haughton-Motley seconded. Passed unanimously.

Reports from commissioners: No reports from commissioners.

Unfinished business

2022 goals and objectives: Shadday said that he would like to table this one more time. In September, he hopes the commissioners would be able to approve goals and objectives for 2023 and the new director. McKinney noted that she has accomplished one objective, distributing BHRC materials at the Farmers' Market. She has sat at a table at the CCA ADA anniversary event and at the Mayor at the Market table, and plans to do one more Mayor at the Market event before the end of the year.

Lead Forward Grant: DeCriscio Bowe reported that she is waiting for Lilly to sign a form so we can refund the unused money to them. She described the events that the BHRC had sponsored using the grant money. Shadday asked if the BHRC could apply again; she said yes, as long as they have a Lilly Scholar willing to sponsor them.

Vacancy on BHRC: McKinney said there is still one vacancy on the commission, but she believes it will be filled by the September meeting of the BHRC.

Quarterly report: McKinney noted that after the commissioners had approved the report in July, she noticed that there was one omission and a couple of typos, so she asked the commissioners to approve the revised version. Haughton-Motley moved that the commission approve the revised report. Calloway-Thomas seconded. Passed unanimously.

New business

Settlement agreement: McKinney reported that last fall, a man with one leg had called her to try to get his landlord to provide him with an accessible parking space with an access aisle. The landlord provided the space but no access aisle. After discussion, the landlord agreed to install the aisle, but the tenant called back in May and said she had yet to do so. He filed a formal complaint with the BHRC. The landlord agreed to provide the access aisle and has done so. The settlement agreement requires them to provide the space and aisle, and to maintain it for the duration of his tenancy. Calloway-Thomas moved that that the BHRC approve the settlement agreement; Haughton-Motley seconded, passed unanimously.

September guest speaker: McKinney reported that Dr. Markay Winston, MCCSC superintendent of curriculum and instruction, will be the guest speaker at the September meeting of the BHRC.

Facebook update: DeCriscio Bowe reported that in June, when we posted photos from our essay/arts contest ceremony, and when the mayor's office shared that, we received more than 4,000 likes/clicks/shares. But for the average post such as the newsletter, we might have four likes/clicks/shares. She said thirty to forty is our normal reach. We currently have 228 Facebook followers. She and McKinney said that they would welcome more ideas from the commissioners, such as McAlister's idea to feature previous human rights award winners when we were soliciting nominations for the 2022 winner. DeCriscio Bowe said that Jackson had some ideas, but they tended to require also posting on Instagram and Tik Tok, and with our fairly low Facebook participation, that doesn't seem like the best track for now.

Assignment of new cases: Bangert accepted a case alleging discrimination in housing on the basis of disability, a case involving a tree. Haughton-Motley accepted a case alleging discrimination in employment on the basis of sex. And the commissioners assigned Jackson a case alleging discrimination in housing on the basis of disability, a case involving a tenant who said she had to move out because of lack of accessibility.

Other business: None.

Public input: None.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney

