

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes of October 24, 2022 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met at 5:30 on Monday, October 24, 2022, in the McCloskey Conference Room of Showers City Hall. Present for this meeting were commissioners Ryne Shadday, Erin McAlister, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas (for the later part of the meeting), Byron Bangert, Tonda Radewan, Pam Jackson and Valeri Haughton-Motley. A quorum was present. Also present were Nicole DeCriscio-Bowe, BHRC assistant, and Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/assistant city attorney.

Call to order: Chair Shadday called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Approval of minutes of September 26, 2022 meeting: Bangert moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Haughton-Motley seconded. Passed unanimously.

Reports from commissioners: There were no reports from commissioners.

New business

King Day donation and CCA Gather 'round the Table donation:

McKinney reported that the City's Community and Family Resources Department had asked the BHRC to contribute to two upcoming events, the Council for Community Accessibility's Gather 'round the Table event on November 7 and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission King Day celebration on January 16, 2023. She said that the BHRC had sufficient funds to donate \$100 to the CCA event and \$250 to the King Day event, and that level of funding will mean the BHRC is recognized publicly for its contribution. Haughton-Motley moved that the BHRC donate \$250 to the King Day event and \$100 to the CCA event; McAlister seconded; passed unanimously.

Third quarterly report: McKinney reviewed the third quarterly report. Radewan asked if work done by the commissioners on HRC-related issues is included in the quarterly report under education or publicity; McKinney said yes. Radewan moved that the third quarterly report be approved as presented. Bangert seconded. Passed unanimously.

December meeting date: After discussion, the BHRC agreed to cancel the BHRC meetings scheduled for November 28 and December 19 and instead meet only one more time in 2022, on December 5, 2022.

Fair housing education and outreach event, April 2023: Radewan said that April is fair housing month and asked if the HRC could do an

educational/outreach event that month. She said that the community is growing and changing, and she is hearing more complaints of race discrimination in housing. McKinney said that most of the housing discrimination complaints she receives are disability complaints. Radewan said that the county's veterans' affairs office is sponsoring an event on April 17 focusing on homeless veterans. The commissioners talked about the difficulty of reaching tenants. Haughton-Motley suggested that Radewan reach out to Judge Diekhoff, who has a court for veterans. The commission agreed to revisit this discussion when a new director is in place.

Old business

Human rights award: McKinney said she had assumed the BHRC wanted to again solicit nominations for the annual human rights award and so there will be information in the November newsletter, on facebook, on the web page, etc. The mayor's office will send out a press release.

Essay/art contest theme: Shadday suggested sharing information about the contest with Dr. Winston from MCCSC; McKinney said she will. It could fit in with their current work.

Radewan suggested a theme along the lines of Housing as a Human Right. Homelessness could be affecting some of the students. The commissioners suggested a number of variations: Should Housing Be a Fundamental Right? Does Everyone Have A Right to a Home? Does Everyone Deserve a Home? Why Does Everyone Deserve a Home? Does Everyone Have a Right to a Home? Does Everyone Deserve a Home: Why or Why Not? Is Housing a Human Right? What Rights Should Everyone Have? Is Intolerance Getting Worse and What Can We Do About It?

The commissioners agreed by consensus to use the theme, Are people in the US getting more or less tolerant of others?

Assignment of new cases: McAlister accepted a case alleging discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation.

Other business: DeCriscio-Bowe announced that this would be her last BHRC meeting, as she has accepted a new position in Indianapolis. The commissioners and McKinney thanked her for her work and wished her well.

Public input: No public input.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.; commissioners convened in Showers hallway for a group photo.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. McKinney