



**Bloomington/Monroe County
Human Rights Commission**

**April 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Hooker Conference Room, City Hall
5:00 p.m.**

The Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission met at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2024, in the Hooker Conference Room of Showers City Hall.

Commissioners Attending: Stephen Coover, Autumn Crisovan (on Zoom), Amy Jackson, Tonda Radewan, Ryne Shadday, Emma Williams.

Staff Attending: BMCHRC Director Michael Shermis, Assistant City Attorney Audrey Brittingham, BMCHRC Assistant Annabelle Vosmeier.

Public Attending: None

Call to Order: Chair Shadday called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of March 18, 2024 Meeting

1. Coover moved to approve. Radewan seconded. Passed unanimously via roll call vote, 6-0.

Report from Staff

1. Opportunity to be on the WFHB show Activate about volunteerism, to publicize your role in the community. It is a recorded conversation with just a few questions. Shadday volunteered to take the opportunity.
2. Progress is being made on the captioning brochure. We should have a final version at the next meeting.

Reports from Commissioners

1. Coover tabled at the SAAM event for another organization on Saturday, April 12. He gave away at least 10 BMCHRC "What is Discrimination?" brochures.
2. Radewan tabled an event at the UU church on March 31 after the Easter service. There was a lot of interest in the BMCHRC from people who stopped by.

Open Cases

1. Jackson's sex discrimination case: The business responded; Shermis had an animated interview with the complainant regarding the response. Decision to request written statements from the business; Shermis and Jackson will meet to



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discuss next steps.

2. Williams's disability discrimination case: The complainant has been interviewed. The respondent has received the letter and has 5-6 days to respond.
3. Coover's race discrimination in employment case: Interview took place today, the letter has gone out to the respondent. This is a complex case with lots of documentation.
4. Radewan's disability discrimination in employment case: This past Friday, we interviewed key participants from the place of employment and are going over their responses to determine probable cause.

Assignment of New Cases

1. A tenant versus tenant case is coming in, but there is enough involvement with the landlord that they may file a complaint. It may be quite simple and only take a few months. Williams volunteered to take it if it is filed.

Unfinished Business

1. **Safe Haven from Anti-Transgender Laws:** London Montgomery and Lilliana Young want to go to the City Council and bring a group of people for public comment. Once it goes on the agenda, Shermis will know ahead of time. Stephen Lucas says there are several councilmembers who are interested in sponsoring it but it is not yet ready to be proposed. On hold until the Council is ready. Discussion of whether the ceasefire resolution discussions will affect this; Shermis does not think so.
2. **Human Rights Award:** Radewan moved to award BTCC (Building a Thriving Compassionate Community) the organizational HRC award; Jackson seconded. Passed unanimously by roll call vote, 7-0, including Commissioner Gray's advance vote sent to Shermis.

Jackson moved to award Byron Bangert the individual HRC award; Coover seconded. Jackson spoke of the breadth and depth of his service and his tenure on this commission. Passed unanimously by roll call vote, 7-0, including Commissioner Gray's advance vote sent to Shermis.

Shermis will let the winners know and then set up an event with the Mayor's Office.

3. **Arts/Essay Contest:** We have 25 submissions, which is three times as many as last year! Crisovan agreed to judge the essays with Williams. Shermis will schedule an event with the Mayor's Office.

New Business



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1. **City Council Statement:** Shadday stated a desire to speak out at City Council against the hate speech and Nazi propaganda statements recently brought to a Council meeting. Commission drafted a statement for Shadday to read on the Commission's behalf. Jackson moved, Williams seconded. Passed unanimously by roll call vote, 6-0. Shermis will run the statement by the Mayor's Office.

Public Input

1. None.

Adjournment: Chair Shadday adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.