BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes of May 22, 2017 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 22, 2017, in the McCloskey Conference Room at Showers City Hall. Present for this meeting were commissioners Byron Bangert, Pete Giordano, Carolyn Calloway Thomas and Rhonda Gambill. Commission Otten had notified staff she could not attend. Commissioner Haughton Motley was absent without notice. A quorum was present. Also present was Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

Approval of minutes of April 24, 2017 meeting minutes: The commissioners approved the minutes by consensus.

Unfinished business

Fair Labor Initiative: Bangert reported that McKinney had learned that the Bloomington Independent Restaurant Association is essentially in hiatus. McKinney reported that Gavin Everett, who had signed up Red Lobster for FLI when he was the manager there, is now the manager at BJ's (the new restaurant in front of Applebee's) and wants to sign his new restaurant up as well. McKinney will follow up. Giordano said that he thought that many businesses would want to participate and suggested that the HT might want to do a story about it. McKinney and Bangert noted that the HT has run some stories about the program, but has declined to run Bangert's proposed guest column.

Fourth of July parade: McKinney asked the commissioners present who will participate in the parade to sign the waiver. After discussion, the commissioners agreed to order the same bracelets we distributed last year, subject to approval by corporation counsel. McKinney will seek approval to order another 500 or 1000, depending on how many the MCHRC can pay for. The commissioners agreed to use the same float as in recent years, barring inspiration and time to construct a different one. McKinney will look for ideas on-line and if we come up with good ideas, perhaps seek volunteers from the City's volunteer network. Giordano said he will not be in town for the parade. Bangert encouraged participants to wear red, white and/or blue. McKinney will look for appropriately-colored bags to carry the bracelets. McKinney will send out photos of previous BHRC floats to the commissioners.

Quiz bowl update: The Rights Stuff went down in the first round.

Essay/art contest plans for 2018: The commissioners decided to invite some teachers who have regularly participated in the contest to the September BHRC meeting, to get their ideas on how to improve the contest. McKinney will send out flyers about the contest to the Boys and Girls Club, Girls Inc., Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Banneker, faith groups, etc. Gambill said she will reach out to a colleague at the School of Education for ideas. Giordano said the commissioners should give more time and thought to developing a theme or question that is more provocative. Bangert suggested sending a notice to the HT about the contest. Gambill suggested using social media.

New business

50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act: McKinney suggested that the BHRC might want to work with HAND to recognize the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Fair Housing Act, April 11, 1969. Bangert suggested punch and cake for the public right before the April BHRC meeting.

Summer events: McKinney noted that Micajkova Otten had suggested that the BHRC participate in some summer events for awareness purposes, but she could not attend the May meeting. After discussion, the commissioners asked McKinney to look into the BHRC having a table at the farmers' market, perhaps once a month. Calloway Thomas agreed to staff the table but asked that someone team up with her.

Assignment of new cases: No new cases to assign.

Other business: No other business

Public input: No public input.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. McKinney
BHRC director/attorney