BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes of July 24, 2017 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met at 5:30 on Monday, July 24, 2017, in the Kelly Conference Room of Shower City Hall. Present for this meeting were commissioners Byron Bangert, Pete Giordano, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Valeri Haughton and Irena Micajkova Otten. Commissioner Rhonda Gambill had notified staff that she could not attend. A quorum was present. Also present was Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

Approval of minutes of May 22, 2017 BHRC meeting: Giordano moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Calloway-Thomas seconded. Passed unanimously. (The June BHRC meeting was cancelled.)

Unfinished business

FLI update: McKinney said that the information about the Fair Labor Initiative was missing from the City's revamped web page and she will see if it can be restored.

Fourth of July parade update: Bangert said that a "good time was had by all." The commissioners discussed improving the BHRC float for 2018. McKinney will check with the Bloomington Volunteer Network to see if they can help find volunteers to build one. Calloway-Thomas said she would be willing to contribute to the costs of construction. Bangert said if we have a bigger float, we would need to find a bigger trailer. All agreed that the current float is not that bad, but could be better.

Summer events: Micajkova Otten and Calloway-Thomas reported that when they sat at a table at the farmers' market, things went well; about 24 people stopped by. Micajkova Otten and Giordano expressed interest in sitting at the table again, maybe on 9/9. McKinney will check on events at the market to pick a good day. Bangert said he has a card table that could be used for the market.

New business

Report on Mandela Fellows Panel: Bangert said that 64,000 people applied to be Mandela Fellows, a program established under the Obama administration, and 1000 were chosen. Several of them spent about a week in Bloomington

and he talked to them at the panel at Ivy Tech. He said it was an impressive group of people. Micajkova Otten met some of the participants at SPEA, and McKinney met a gentleman from Ethiopia who works on accessibility issues, and they both agreed with Bangert's assessment.

Quarterly report: Calloway-Thomas noted that the commissioners staffing a table at the farmers' market was not included. McKinney said she would add that. The commissioners accepted the quarterly reported as amended by Calloway-Thomas.

Essay/art contest: McKinney suggested that the theme for the next contest focus on fair housing in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. The commissioners approved that idea. McKinney will try to track down a book on the topic and will invite some teachers to the August or September BHRC meeting.

National Hispanic Heritage Month programming: After discussion, the commissioners agreed that Calloway-Thomas should follow up with La Casa to discuss options for a program about related issues such as the Fair Labor Initiative or wage theft.

Assignment of new cases: Bangert accepted a case alleging discrimination in housing on the basis of familial status.

Other business: McKinney reported that Ivy Tech had asked the BHRC to participate in its celebration of diversity on Thursday, 9/7, from 4 to 7. Calloway-Thomas, Haughton and McKinney agreed to staff a table. Micajkova Otten reported that undocumented Latinos are much less likely to report crimes since the new administration. Some are choosing not to report crimes by undocumented people; they prefer the crime go unpunished than getting the offender deported.

Public input: None.

Adjournment: The July meeting of the BHRC was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. McKinney
BHRC Director/Attorney