BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes of September 25, 2017 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met on Monday, September 25, 2017, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the McCloskey Conference Room of Showers City Hall. Present for this meeting were commissioners Byron Bangert, Pete Giordano, Carolyn Calloway Thomas, Rhonda Gambill and Ryne Shadday. Commissioners Irena Micajkova Otten and Valeri Haughton Motley had notified staff that they could not attend. A quorum was present. Also present was Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

Approval of minutes of August 28, 2017 Meeting: The commissioners approved the minutes of the August 28, 2017 meeting unanimously by consent.

Unfinished business

Essay/art contest: McKinney reported that she had sent the draft flyer to three teachers who have been active in the contests in the past for their feedback. Two simply said it was fine and one did not reply. None of them were able to attend the September meeting. Giordano suggested inviting teachers to a meeting in the summer, perhaps extending the invitation to them in April or May of next year. Commissioners discussed making sure the flyer goes to every English and social studies teacher as well as to every principal. Gambill suggested trying to make the theme connect to the national social studies standards. McKinney said she would accompany the flyer with a cover e-mail or letter discussing the purpose of the contest and our hope that it really gets kids to think. Bangert suggested putting the flyer on regular size paper, with bullet points and/or bold terms.

Fair Labor Initiative: Bangert said he had nothing to report.

Human Rights Award: McKinney said the press release had been sent out. It's in the Rights Stuff as well as other City departmental facebook pages, etc. Nominations are due on 12/1. She reminded the commissioners that they could make a nomination. One commissioner suggested recognizing the IU professor who helped write the Iraq constitution.

New business

Fall/winter events: Giordano reported that he had very little response when he staffed a table at the Farmers Market in September. The commissioners discussed possibly staffing a table one more time in October; McKinney will follow up with an email. She will check with CFRD to see if they have a table we can use and will get some City chairs. Gambill said the new banner is a good size, but the print should be bigger to get more. Shadday said that he had often sat at tables at Ivy Tech, with little response. Calloway Thomas said that she, Haughton Motley and McKinney had very little response when they sat at a table at Ivy Tech's Celebration of Diversity recently, mainly getting visited by people staffing other tables. If we do have a table at the market again, we need a better hook to get people to stop by.

2018 Meeting Dates: After discussion, the commissioners agreed to keep meeting on the fourth Monday of the month at 5:30 in McCloskey.

DACA: After discussion, McKinney agreed to draft a letter to our representatives in Congress to urge them to support a legislative version of DACA for the BHRC to consider at its October meeting.

Facebook: McKinney said that the BHRC now has a facebook page, thanks to Barb Toddy. She asked anyone who wants to post information on the page to send it to Barb or to her.

Annual report: After discussion, the commissioners agreed to continue the same format as in previous years for the BHRC's 2017 Annual Report.

Donation to Council for Community Accessibility: McKinney said that the BHRC has $200 in its budget to cosponsor events and has not spent any in 2017. The CCA asked for a donation for its annual celebration. Gambill moved that the BHRC donate $100 to the CCA. Shadday seconded. Passed unanimously.

Assignment of new cases: There were no new cases to assign.

Other business: Gambill announced that the commissioners would all be invited to a closing reception for an exhibit at Mathers on October 19 from 4:30 to 6. She said both the exhibit and the museum's recent renovations are "stunning."

Public input: No public input.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC Director/Attorney