

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes of October 23, 2017 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met on Monday, October 23, 2017, beginning at 5:45 p.m. in the McCloskey Conference Room of Showers City Hall. Present for the meeting were commissioners Byron Bangert, Pete Giordano, Irena Micajkova Otten and Rhonda Gambill. A quorum was present. Commissioners Carolyn Calloway Thomas, Valeri Haughton Motley and Ryne Shadday had notified staff that they likely could not attend. Also present was Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

Approval of minutes of September 25, 2017 BHRC meeting: The BHRC unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

Unfinished business

Essay/art contest: McKinney reported that the flyers had been sent out to the schools. Gambill and Bangert tentatively agreed to judge the art entries. Giordano and Micajkova Otten tentatively agreed to judge the essay entries, but all are willing to defer to the commissioners who missed the October meeting if they would like to judge instead.

Human rights award: McKinney reported that the notice about the award is on facebook, has been sent to the media and has been mentioned in several issues of Rights Stuff. She said she has not yet received any nominations and reminded the commissioners they are welcome to submit nominations. Suggestions for possible nominations: Lotus Festival, Bloomington Pride and IU professors who helped developing democracies. Bangert urged commissioners who want to make a nomination to take the time to prepare a formal nomination and present a good case to the BHRC. McKinney offered to help with research.

DACA update: The commissioners reviewed and tweaked McKinney's draft letter to the editor. McKinney will send out the revised statement to the full commission for their additional feedback.

New business

Quarterly report: The commissioners reviewed and unanimously approved the director's quarterly report for the third quarter of 2017.

International children's signing event: Micajkova Otten suggested having children from different cultures sing at an event, perhaps the farmers' market or the essay/art award ceremony. She said that her children attend Childs which has a fair number of international students. She agreed to talk to the music teacher at Childs and come back with a more formal proposal, including how the children will be recruited, who will do the ground work, etc.

Withdrawal of complaints for failure to cooperate: McKinney reported that a young man had filed two complaints with the BHRC in mid-July. He's a minor so his dad is the official complainant. The respondents have filed their answers to the complaints, but the father has not replied to several inquiries from McKinney trying to follow up. McKinney explained that under the BHRC rules, the commissioners could vote to withdraw the complaints. If they do, McKinney will send notice via certified mail to the father, who will have 30 days to appeal the withdrawal. Gambill moved that the complaints be withdrawn for failure to cooperate. Giordano seconded. Passed unanimously.

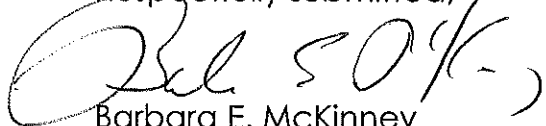
Assignment of new cases: No new cases to assign.

Other business: Bangert reported that he and John Clower recently met with Judge Galvin to discuss possible hate crimes legislation as well as current law and practices. Bangert said he is concerned that if the current legislature passes a hate crime bill, it could be used to impose harsher penalties on members of minority groups. He supports better reporting but not enhanced penalties.

Public input: No public input.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara E. McKinney
BHRC director/attorney