

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes of June 25, 2018 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met on Monday, June 25, 2018 at 5:30 in the McCloskey Conference Room of Showers City Hall. Present for this meeting were commissioners Byron Bangert, Ryne Shadday, Valerie Haughton-Motley, Irena Micajkova Otten, Rhonda Gambill and Jacob Snodgrass. Commissioner Carolyn Calloway-Thomas 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 21, 2018 BHRC meeting: Gambill moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Shadday seconded. Passed unanimously.

Welcome to new commissioner, Jacob Snodgrass: The commissioners and McKinney welcomed Snodgrass to the BHRC and introduced themselves. Bangert explained that serving on the commission is largely a learn-as-you-go proposition, but urged Snodgrass to speak up if he had any questions or concerns.

Unfinished business

Fourth of July parade: McKinney said that the rubber bracelets were on their way; they will say Human Rights and give the phone numbers of both the BHRC and the MCHRC. She said that we will be #9 in the black lot; she will send out more information later. Haughton-Motley agreed to drive her convertible. Commissioners discussed displaying upside-down flags during the parade to demonstrate their concern about current events.

Cross commission bicentennial event: Gambill reported that entries are due 6/29; we may extend the deadline depending on the number of entries. She said she appreciated the chance to work with the group and meet representatives of other commissions.

New business

Update on IFI litigation: McKinney reported that the IFI litigation against four local human rights commissions, including the BHRC, had been put on hold pending the outcome of the Masterpiece Cake litigation. The Supreme Court

ruled in favor of the baker who did not want to make a cake for a same sex couple in that case, but on very narrow grounds based on comments some state commissioners made regarding people using religion to justify discrimination. Renewed discovery is likely the next step of the litigation.

Human rights award: McKinney urged the commissioners to think about potential recipients of the annual human rights award. Gambill suggested the Mathers Museum, which sponsored an event for World Refugee Day recently.

Farmers' Market table: McKinney asked the commissioners if they wanted to have a table at the market again this year. Micajkova Otten said that her international singing event will now take place in the spring so it will be during the school year. August 4 was suggested as a possible date; McKinney will look into availability. The commissioners agreed to have information about the immigration issue at the table, including places to donate. McKinney will draft materials.

Assignment of new cases: No new cases to assign. The commission briefly discussed the recent situation at the Transit Center.

Other business

Bangert discussed Beth Applegate's recent request that the BHRC sign on to Racial Equality Here. McKinney will send the commissioners Applegate's e-mail for their review.

Bangert discussed John Clower's recent request that the BHRC sign on to a letter urging Indiana Public Media to investigate why there is so little compliance statewide with the state's bias reporting law. After discussion and suggested edits to the letter, Shadday moved that the BHRC sign on to the letter and forward the possible edits. Gambill seconded. Passed unanimously.

Public input: No public input.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney