

## **BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of April 24, 2017 Meeting**

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met beginning at 5:35 on Monday, April 24, 2017, in the McCloskey Conference Room of Showers City Hall. Present at this meeting were commissioners Byron Bangert, Valeri Haughton Motley, Carolyn Calloway Thomas and Pete Giordano. A quorum was present. Commissioners Otten and Gambill had notified staff that they could not attend. Also present was Alyssa Julian, a member of the public, and Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

**Approval of minutes of March 27, 2017 Bloomington Human Rights Commission meeting:** The minutes were approved by consensus.

#### **Unfinished business**

**FLI Update:** Thus far, three restaurants have returned the postcards; all were favorable, but the percentage of returns is pretty low. The commissioners discussed whether the program should continue. Giordano said that connecting with business owners was more labor intensive than he had anticipated. Calloway Thomas asked if the yield was worth the effort and if there were a compelling reason to keep going. Giordano said that he would have thought businesses in Bloomington would have been eager to sign up. McKinney described an activity she participated in last week with the Council for Community Accessibility, where small teams of volunteers visited downtown businesses, awarding them accessibility decals along with a balloon, candy kisses and thanks. Calloway Thomas said we don't have evidence that compliance is a large problem in Bloomington. McKinney noted that the DOL had found violations, and that the people who are victims are not likely to complain. McKinney will find out who is in charge of the Bloomington Independent Restaurant Association now and discuss with Bangert. Bangert asked the commissioners to continue to think about the project and to finish their assignments.

**Essay/art contest:** Giordano, Calloway Thomas and McKinney all agreed that the awards ceremony went well. The commissioners discussed improving the theme to get better responses. McKinney said she asked for feedback at the ceremony; thus far, no one has responded. The BHRC may try a group e-mail to all teachers in the early fall to get their input, and perhaps a strategic meeting with a few teachers.

**VITAL Quiz Bowl update:** The Rights Stuff was scheduled to participate in the first round of the VITAL quiz bowl after the BHRC meeting. (Update: Rights Stuff went down to defeat in the first round.)

**Fourth of July parade update:** Calloway-Thomas said we need a spectacular float.

### **New business**

**Quarterly report:** After discussion, Calloway-Thomas moved that the director's quarterly report for the first quarter of 2017 be approved as presented. Giordano seconded. Passed unanimously.

**Amendments to Official Contract Compliance Regulations of the BHRC:** McKinney explained that the CC regulations needed to be updated to include all of the currently-protected categories. She added the categories each time the list is included in the regulations and corrected some typos. Giordano moved that the regulations be accepted as presented. Haughton seconded. Passed unanimously.

**Public input:** Julian had no input to provide.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. McKinney  
Director, BHRC/Assistant City Attorney