

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes of March 25, 2019 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met on Monday, March 25, 2019, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the McCloskey Conference Room of Showers City Hall. Present were commissioners Ryne Shadday, Irena Micajkova Otten, Byron Bangert, Carolyn Calloway Thomas and Val Haughton Motley. Also present were Vickie Darcy from the League of Women Voters, MeLissa J. Williams from the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission, Dolly Serrant from the Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs and Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

Call to order: Chair Shadday called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of February 25, 2018 meeting minutes: Shadday noted one correction. Otten moved the minutes be approved as amended. Calloway Thomas seconded. Passed unanimously.

Unfinished business

Art/Essay contest: McKinney reminded the commissioners that the awards ceremony would be at 4:30 on Monday, April 1, and urged them all to attend.

Vital quiz bowl: The quiz bowl will start the week of April 15, and Bangert said that Rights Stuff will probably compete on April 16. Contributions to the entry fee are still gratefully accepted.

New business

Guest speakers: Shadday welcomed Williams and Serrant to the BHRC meeting. Williams said her commission studies issues relating to Native Americans in Indiana. She said that 50,000 Native Americans live in Indiana, and 500 in Monroe County. One hundred and fourteen tribes are represented in Indiana. She said that Indiana has two areas of sovereign land, near South Bend and near Ft. Wayne, which tribes have purchased back. She would like to work with Bloomington to put on a listening session with other agencies. There would be a panel discussion and an opportunity for participants to share their own issues. She said there is little awareness of Native American issues in Indiana as they are a silent minority. She is also working with DOE to reduce stereotypes in the classroom.

She would like for Bloomington to proclaim the month of November as Native American month. She had met with Mayor Hamilton earlier in the day and that

seemed quite possible. She said they would publicize the event with local media, social media and not for profits.

The BHRC agreed to help Williams with this event as time permits. A tentative date was set for June 1 from 2:30 to 4. McKinney will send Williams information about available conference rooms.

Fourth of July parade: The BHRC decided to give away bracelets this year, funding permitting. Shadday said they were popular at the women's history month lunch. McKinney will check with the corporation counsel and the MCHRC.

Facebook: Shadday summarized the information from the mayor's office about expecting city facebook pages to be active and engaging. He said he thought it is important to have a presence on facebook and Instagram, but not twitter. He said that Oswald had suggested she would like to have other people, perhaps commissioners, be able to be administrators and to post. McKinney said she would check on that.

Revised brochures: The commissioners reviewed and accepted the draft brochures, with one correction suggested by Bangert in the hate incidents brochure.

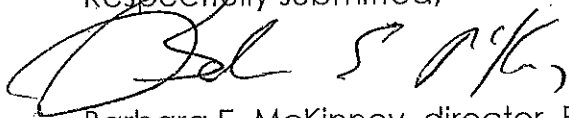
Assignment of new cases: Otten accepted a case alleging discrimination in housing on the basis of disability.

Other business: Serrant said that her commission is organizing events around the state as well, including one in Evansville. She asked if the BHRC would help publicize her events and the commissioners agreed to do so.

Public input: No public input.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara E. McKinney, director, BHRC