

## BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

### Minutes of January 28, 2019 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met on Monday, January 28, 2019, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the McCloskey Conference room at Showers City Hall. Present were commissioners Byron Bangert, Ryne Shadday, Rhonda Gambill, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Irena Micajkova Otten, Val Haughton-Motley and Jacob Snodgrass. A quorum was present. Also present were Jessica Oswalt, BHRC assistant, and Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

**Approval of minutes of November 26, 2018 BHRC meeting:** Haughton-Motley moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Shadday seconded. Passed unanimously.

#### Unfinished business

**Human rights award:** McKinney reported that the BHRC had not received any nominations, so there will not be an award presentation this year.

**Essay/art contest update:** McKinney reported that the flyers for the contest had gone out to local schools. Entries are due on February 15; the awards ceremony will be in the council chambers on April 1. Haughton-Motley and Micajkova Otten agreed to judge the art entries; Shadday and Calloway-Thomas agreed to judge the essays.

#### New business

**Election of 2019 officers:** Bangert opened the floor to nominations and asked Shadday if he would be interested in serving as chair. He said he would. Bangert nominated Shadday; Calloway-Thomas seconded. Bangert nominated Micajkova Otten as vice chair after she agreed to serve; Snodgrass seconded. Gambill nominated Calloway-Thomas as secretary; Snodgrass seconded. No further nominations. Haughton-Motley moved that the BHRC approve this slate of nominees; Gambill seconded; passed unanimously.

Chair Shadday took over the meeting at this point.

**Fourth quarter report and annual report:** The commissioners discussed the two reports. Shadday said he had seen a typo in the quarterly report and would get back to McKinney with that. Bangert moved that the BHRC approve the quarterly report, subject to any typographical corrections; Haughton-Motley seconded; passed unanimously. Calloway-Thomas moved that the BHRC approve the annual report, subject to any typographical corrections; Snodgrass seconded. Passed unanimously.

Shadday asked the commissioners to review both reports and let McKinney and Oswalt know of any corrections by the end of the week.

**Donation to King Day events:** McKinney said that the King Commission had asked for a donation for the January 21 events. She promised either a BHRC or personal contribution, and the BHRC was recognized in promotional materials for the event. She said that the BHRC had funds to cover a \$100 donation, and that the corporation counsel had approved the donation. Haughton-Motley moved that the BHRC donate \$100 to the 2019 King Day events; Gambill seconded; passed unanimously.

**2019 Legislation:** The commissioners discussed the various bills pending before the 2019 Indiana Legislature, including several hate crime bills. Bangert said he is in favor of restorative justice and against retributive justice, and is thus opposed to enhanced penalties. Haughton-Motley said she would have to recuse herself on this issue. McKinney said that the city council and mayor, as well as the county council and chamber of commerce, plan to write a letter supporting hate crime legislation, and that she would be appearing on a Facebook live program on January 30.

**VITAL quiz bowl:** The commissioners agreed to field a team once again in 2019. Team members will include Bangert, Shadday, Haughton-Motley, maybe McKinney and maybe Nicole Bolden. Details to come.

**New cases:** Haughton-Motley accepted a case alleging discrimination on the basis of race in public accommodations which was filed in December. Bangert accepted a case alleging discrimination on the basis of race in employment, which is scheduled to be filed on 1/24/2019.

**Other business:** Gambill announced that there is a very good chance she will be moving out of state in the next couple of months; she will keep the commissioners posted. Snodgrass announced that this was his last meeting as he needs to focus on his last semester of law school and the bar exam. The remaining commissioners thanked them for their service, and Bangert for his many years of service as chair. And the commissioners welcomed Oswalt to the BHRC.

**Public input:** No public input.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney