

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes of June 24, 2019 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met on Monday, June 24, 2019, in the McCloskey Conference Room of Showers City Hall. Present for some or all of this meeting were commissioners Ryne Shadday, Byron Bangert, Valeri Haughton-Motley, Irena Micajkova-Otten and Jacob Simpson. Also present were Jessica Oswalt, Braylon Oswalt, Barbara E. McKinney and two members of the public. Absent without notice were Pam Jackson and Carolyn Calloway-Thomas.

Call to order: Chair Shadday called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Bangert moved that the minutes of the May 20, 2019 BHRC meeting be approved as presented. Micajkova-Otten seconded. Passed unanimously.

Introduction of newest commissioner, Jacob Simpson: The BHRC welcomed Simpson to the BHRC and introduced themselves.

Photograph: Braylon Oswalt took a photo of the commissioners and staff for a photo for the Latino/Hispanic Bulletin, which will include an article about the BHRC.

Unfinished business

4th of July: McKinney reported that the BHRC and MCHRC had reserved an entry for the parade. Both agencies ordered wristbands which have arrived. Several groups have submitted banners to decorate a float, which Oswalt has secured. McKinney asked commissioners who planned to participate in the parade to sign the City's waiver.

Ordinance: Shadday and McKinney reported that the council had unanimously approved the BHRC's proposed amendment to the Human Rights Ordinance to provide additional protections for independent contractors. The Council made only one change, amending "she or he" to "she, he or they" to be more inclusive. McKinney thanked Shadday for sitting through two prolonged meetings.

BHRC nametags: Simpson, Haughton-Motley and Shadday all said they would like a nametag. Jackson had told McKinney she wanted one as well. McKinney will check with Calloway-Thomas and Micajkova-Otten and then place the order.

New business

Mustata Asku: McKinney reported that Asku could not attend but would like to attend the July meeting if the agenda permits.

Booth at PRIDE event: The BHRC agreed to help staff the BPD table if that is possible, and if not, to pay for a separate table, subject to approval by the corporation counsel.

Settlement agreement: McKinney reported that a tenant with a disability said that his fellow tenants frequently parked in his space or in the access aisle, which was a significant burden for him. He filed a complaint alleging discrimination in housing on the basis of disability. The landlord agreed to hire a towing company and to have the company tow people who park there without authorization. Bangert moved that the BHRC approve the proposed settlement. Simpson seconded. Passed unanimously.

BHRC flyer: The BHRC reviewed Oswald's updated flyer and approved it, with one correction.

Assignment of new cases: Haughton-Motley expressed interest in investigating a case that may be filed soon.

Other business: The BHRC discussed community conversations that the MCHRC have been having. Bangert, Jackson and Oswald had all attended at least one of the sessions. Topics included the fact that the Monroe County jail is not adequate for housing or rehabilitation and has no space for programming. Haughton-Motley said that the Morgan County Jail is much better, and there is a growing recognition that this is an issue that needs to be addressed locally.

Public input: No public input.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. McKinney, Director, BHRC