

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes of November 25, 2019 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met on Monday, November 25, 2019, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the McCloskey Conference Room of Showers City Hall. Present at this meeting were commissioners Ryne Shadday, Byron Bangert, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Jacob Simpson and Valeri Haughton-Motley. Commissioners Pam Jackson and Irena Micajkova Otten had notified staff they could not attend. A quorum was present. Also present was Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

Approval of minutes of September 23, 2019 BHRC meeting: Bangert moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Calloway-Thomas seconded. Passed unanimously. (The October meeting was cancelled.)

Unfinished business

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration donation request: McKinney shared the letter from the King Commission requesting that the BHRC donate to the 2020 celebration. She said that the corporation counsel had approved donating \$100, but noted that if the BHRC donated \$250, it would receive recognition in the program and on the web site. Calloway-Thomas moved that the BHRC donate \$250, contingent on approval. Simpson seconded. If approval is not forthcoming, McKinney and two members of the BHRC agreed to make up the difference.

Council for Community Accessibility donation update: McKinney shared a thank you letter to the BHRC for its \$100 donation to the October event and said the event was interesting and informative.

Theme for 2020 essay/art contest: After discussion, Simpson moved that the theme be "Were we born free and equal?" Calloway-Thomas seconded. Passed unanimously.

Homecoming parade update: Calloway-Thomas, Shadday and McKinney reported that the parade had been wet, cold, miserable and fun. Attendance was sparse but Shadday said that was often the case.

HRC award update: McKinney said that the press release had gone out. The release was included in the November and December issues of Rights Stuff, on the City's web page and in the CCA newsletter. She reminded commissioners

that the nomination deadline is December 5 and that they are welcome to submit nominations.

New business

HRC inventory: Simpson said he had researched peer communities designated as such in the Bloomington community survey. He looked at those communities' HRC web sites to learn what they are doing. He said few if any cities have as many boards and communities focusing on diversity issues as Bloomington. He thinks the BHRC could do more intentional work with other commissions and boards. He said that some cities have work plans or equity plans; some are quite simple and some are more complicated. Some HRCs have grant programs. Some cities have policy toolkits to review new policies and study their impact on equity issues. He said that he was interested in the Portland, Oregon's toolkit. And he said many HRCs have more resources and staff than the BHRC. Shadday and other commissioners thanked Simpson for his work and promised to review his material in the near future.

Annual report: McKinney said that she and Oswald had started on the 2019 annual report. The basic information will be the same as in previous years, but Oswald is adding some color and interest to the publication. She asked the commissioners if they wanted to make any changes in the format; the commissioners agreed it was fine as is. Shadday asked for his deadline to submit his chair's statement; McKinney said by mid-January would be good.

Third quarterly report: After discussion, Haughton-Motley moved that the director's third quarterly report be approved as presented. Simpson seconded. Passed unanimously.

New case: McKinney said that a new case alleging discrimination in public accommodations should be ready soon. Since Jackson has not yet investigated a case, the commissioners agreed she should investigate this one, barring any conflict.

Other business: McKinney mentioned that the City had won a motion for summary judgment in the on-going IFI case. An appeal seems likely. She offered to send a copy of the finding to anyone interested.

Public input: No public input.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney