

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes of January 27, 2020 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met on Monday, January 27, 2020, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the McCloskey Conference Room of Showers City Hall. Present for this meeting were commissioners Ryne Shadday, Pam Jackson, Byron Bangert, Irena Micajkova-Otten, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Valeri Haughton-Motley and Jacob Simpson. A quorum was present. Also present was Cedric Harris, director of bias response and senior student case manager at IU, and Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

Approval of minutes of December 23, 2019, CCC and BHRC

meetings: Calloway-Thomas moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Haughton-Motley seconded. Approved unanimously.

Unfinished business

Human rights award: The commissioners discussed Shadday's nomination of Cindy Stone. All of the commissioners who know her agreed that she was an excellent nominee. Shadday agreed to gather more information about Stone's contributions for the commissioners to consider at their February meeting.

Essay/arts contest: McKinney reminded the commissioners that the entries are due on February 7. Calloway-Thomas and Simpson agreed to judge the essays. Jackson and Haughton-Motley agreed to judge the art. McKinney said she would send copies of the essays to the essay judges. The art judges will need to view the art in city legal.

New business

Selection of 2020 officers: Calloway-Thomas nominated Shadday as chair. Bangert seconded. Haughton-Motley nominated Micajkova-Otten as vice chair. Bangert seconded. Haughton-Motley nominated Calloway-Thomas as secretary. Shadday seconded. Bangert moved to close the nominations and approve the slate of officers by unanimous consent. Haughton-Motley seconded. Passed unanimously.

Fourth quarterly report: After discussion, Haughton-Motley moved that the director's fourth quarterly report be approved as presented. Calloway-Thomas seconded. Approved unanimously.

Annual report: Calloway-Thomas said she liked including the photos and graphics in the report. Simpson suggested including budget information and noted that his name had been left off the list of commissioners. McKinney said she would welcome any additional feedback, including proof reading.

Bangert moved that the 2019 BHRC annual report be approved as presented, with the addition of the budget information, the correction about Simpson and the correction of any typographical errors. Haughton-Motley seconded. Passed unanimously.

Budget: McKinney discussed her memo outlining the BHRC expenses in 2019 and the 2020 budget. Commissioners discussed what changes they could recommend for 2020, for example by budgeting for the VITAL quiz bowl instead of telephone costs.

McKinney noted that August, 2020, would be the 50th anniversary of the BHRC. In 2015, the commissioners discussed having a 50th anniversary celebration of the creation of the Bloomington Human Relations Commission, a study commission that was the precursor of the Human Rights Commission. The commissioners discussed having a nice celebration with a guest speaker and an awards presentation, perhaps a dinner. McKinney noted there was no money in the budget for this.

New assistant: McKinney reported that she and Mike Rouker, city attorney, would be doing second interviews with three candidates this week. She said she hoped to make a decision soon.

Assignment of new cases: No new cases to assign.

Other business: No other business.

Public input: Harris introduced himself and said he wanted to reinstate connections between his office and the BHRC. All agreed this was a good idea.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbra E. McKinney, director/attorney