

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Minutes of September 27, 2021 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 27, 2021. Present for this meeting in whole or in part were commissioners Ryne Shadday, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Byron Bangert, Erin McAlister and Latosha Williams. A quorum was present. Absent with notice was commissioner Valerie Haughton-Motley. Absent without notice was commissioner Pam Jackson. Also present were Brooklyn Shively, a member of the public; Nicole DeCriscio Bowe, BHRC assistant, and Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

Roll call: Chair Shadday called the roll at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of minutes of August 23, 2021 BHRC minutes: Calloway-Thomas moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Williams seconded. Shadday called the roll; passed unanimously.

Unfinished business

Web page update: McKinney said that the update was nearly finished; DeCriscio Bowe is working on adding more links. She said what is currently posted is updated but not complete. Bangert said that Margie Rice from the MCHRC didn't know the status of the update; McKinney said she had sent Rice an updated version and will resend it to her.

Human rights award: Shadday and McKinney reported that Shadday had presented the 2020 award, belatedly, to Cindy Stone at a virtual council meeting in August. The commissioners decided by consensus to solicit nominations for a 2022 award.

2022 goals and objectives: Williams said she didn't have any additional ideas beyond what she had previously shared with the commissioners via email. McAlister said she liked the list so far. Shadday said he would like to have decisions for this so we would have a memo or policy to approve in January, 2022 for the new year.

Lead Forward community grants: DeCriscio Bowe said that she had, as requested, proposed several ideas in her memo which was included in the packet, including a BHRC clean-up, employer training, landlord/tenant training and a diversity/inclusion panel. We could use the grant money to purchase lunches.

Calloway-Thomas asked if DeCriscio Bowe was proposing doing all of these projects; she said no. Calloway-Thomas said she loved the clean-up idea. She believes we don't emphasize beatification enough. DeCriscio Bowe said there has been a lot of emphasis on Crestmont lately and we might want to pick another area.

Shadday said that his small hometown had a CARE day, where people would go out and plant flowers, pick up trash and cut down weeds. He said he liked all four proposals and said DeCriscio Bowe outdid herself.

Bangert said he didn't think it was the job of the BHRC to pick up other peoples' trash. He said it was not a productive activity if people didn't then start picking up after themselves.

Shadday said if we did something like this once a year, we could help instill a sense of pride in the neighborhood. Bangert said clean-up was not part of the calling of the BHRC and noted that other service organizations do this sort of thing. He said he preferred the training options.

McKinney said that she understood the proposal to be a way to raise the visibility of the BHRC. By wearing BHRC t-shirts and passing out materials, we would be helping to remind people we exist, or letting them know for the first time.

Calloway-Thomas said that beautiful neighborhoods cultivate beautiful behavior. Bangert asked which causes which.

McAlister said she liked the idea of reaching more people, but agreed clean-up was not part of the BHRC mission. She said she liked all of the proposals and that the enlightened employer proposal was her favorite.

McKinney said that from her perspective, based on calls the BHRC receives, landlords need education about the accessibility requirements of fair housing laws.

DeCriscio Bowe said the commissioners needed to decide at this meeting what they wanted to ask for in the grant so she could have the grant proposal available for the commissioners at the October meeting.

The commissioners discussed what the grant money could be used for: cleaning supplies, box lunches even if the training is via Zoom, stickers or certificate for attending, t-shirts, etc.

DeCriscio-Bowe said that she thought the grant application should be focused on one proposal. Shadday said he thought they could be combined under one

proposal to have a series of brown bag lunches, or box lunches, including the clean-up proposal.

The commissioners agreed to vote on whether each proposal should be included in the grant application.

Calloway-Thomas moved that the grant application include the clean-up proposal. McAlister seconded. Shadday called the roll. McAlister, Shadday and Calloway-Thomas voted yes; Bangert and Williams voted no. Passed 3-2.

Williams moved that the grant application include the enlightened employer training. Bangert seconded. Shadday called the roll. All in favor except for Calloway-Thomas.

McAlister moved that the grant application include the diversity and inclusion panel. Calloway-Thomas seconded. Shadday called the roll. Passed unanimously.

At DeCriscio Bowe's suggestion, Shadday added another proposal, an opportunity to meet the BHRC. McAlister moved that a meet the BHRC session be included in the grant application. Failed for lack of a second.

Bangert moved that the fair housing proposal be included in the grant application. Williams seconded. Shadday called the roll. Passed unanimously.

New business

Essay/art contest: The commissioners agreed to sponsor an essay/art contest again in 2022. McKinney said she thought it might be a good idea to somehow address COVID-19 in the theme. Williams said she liked that idea, which could include something about social responsibility and how public health depends on the public taking responsibility. Bangert said he agreed, and said that his rights end where someone else's rights begin. He said we could talk about caring for one's neighbor.

Shadday asked the commissioners, including the absent commissioners, to think about possible themes for the October BHRC meeting.

Calloway-Thomas, before she left the meeting, asked to be assigned to judge essays.

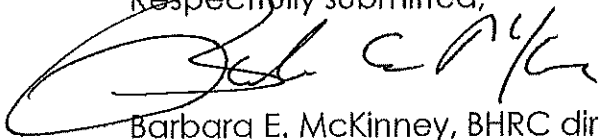
Assignment of new cases: McKinney said she had no new cases to assign.

Other business: No other business.

Public input: Brooklyn Shively said she attended the meeting as part of her environmental law and justice class. She said she didn't have any questions or input.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara E. McKinney', written in a cursive style.

Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney