

**MEETING MINUTES FOR
MICHIGAN CITY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

*February 2, 2010
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Present: Marty Corley
JoAnn Engquist
Nancy Gonzalez
James Guerrucci
Martin Hernández
Judi Huber
Elizabeth Pacheco-Hubertz
Faye Moore
Mary Ellen Quinn
Tyra Robinson-Walker

Absent: Hezzie Mitchell
Ta-Tanisha Clark Executive Director

Staff: Sammie Phillips Assistant Director
Larry Arness Staff Attorney

Others: Andy Steele ALCO T.V. Cameraman

ROLL CALL:

Chairperson Quinn asked for the roll to be called. Assistant Director Phillips called the roll and it was noted for the record. All attendance is noted above.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairperson Quinn asked for a motion of acceptance for the January meeting minutes. Commissioner Moore motioned to accept. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. The chairperson asked for a vote.

Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 1 Vacant: 1
Motion accepted as submitted.

FINANCE REPORT:

Attorney Arness in Commissioner Mitchell's absence gave a brief January verbal financial report. He reported the new statement was not received in time for this month's meeting. Therefore, no activity was on this month's statement. A more detailed statement will be given at the March regular meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Chairperson Quinn asked Assistant Direct Phillips to give the director's report in her absence. The director has been very busy with the Contract Compliance portion of her duties. She has been having several meetings with the mayor and local construction companies regarding their responsibilities regarding the city's hiring ordinance and contract compliance. A copy of the report was given to all present.

A copy of the case disposition was given to all present as well. Ms. Phillips reported case #2008-04 received a NPC ruling. The charging party was not happy with this ruling. Ms. Clark met with the charging party explaining the details of why he received a ruling of NPC. She also explained the process and what other options he had. Attorney Arness briefly explained the appeal process charging parties have. Ms. Phillips also reported a line item

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was added to the case referrals portion of the report. This informs the commission how many inquiries the department receives that are not discriminatory in nature but the staff still gives a referral to the correct agency.

Ms. Phillips reported an updated commission list was given to all present. She also gave a brief report on other department calendar events. The deadline for the BHM contest was on 2/1/10. All the projects will be taken downstairs to be cataloged by the BHM committee. The code review meeting was cancelled on the 2/2/10 and rescheduled 2/10/10 at 10:00 am. Ms. Clark sent the information to all present. The department will be closed on Monday, February 15th for President's Day. The SSAAM are meeting on 2/10/10 at 12:00 pm in the mayor's conference room. Also the NAACP and H.O.P.E. are hosting a fund raiser breakfast on Saturday, February 20th at the H.O.P.E. building from 8-11 am. Tickets can be purchase by calling 877-4407. She also reminded all that the presentation for the winners of the BHM contest will be Wednesday, February 24th at 10:00 am.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Staff Attorney Arness reported he did confer with the director regarding case #2008-04 regarding possibility meeting with the CP. Ms. Clark did not need him to speak with him.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Education Committee:

Commissioner Engquist reported the committee is actually ahead of schedule. She reported she received another donation of \$100 from the NAACP. She reported she was in need of two more judges for the contest. The committee does plan to meet after the meeting to catalog the projects. We don't have a number on how many were received but it is a sizable amount to go through.

DISABILITY

Disability Task Force Committee:

Commissioner Guerrucci reported due to weather conditions this committee did not meet in January. The committee rescheduled for Wednesday, February 17th at 3:45 pm in the East Conference room. Commissioner Guerrucci also sadly had to report the 1st proposed Disability Awareness Contest had to be canceled. He conferred with his Vice Chairperson, Judi Huber and the decision was several components did not line up to allow the committee to move forward. He did note the committee is looking forward to having next year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairperson Quinn noted an updated list was supposed to be provided at this month's meeting. Due to the director's absence she was unclear about the list. Therefore, she passed around a blank list and asked all present to sign-up for the committee they were interested in.

Commissioner Engquist wanted to take a moment to give a brief explanation of what she stated at last month's meeting regarding the standing committees and the process. She elaborated on what she meant by the term democratic process.

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Chairperson Quinn opened the floor for two additional members to join the Executive Committee. Commissioner Huber asked to join. Commissioner Engquist nominated Commissioner Robinson-Walker. Chairperson Quinn asked was there any other nominations? With no other nominations from the floor, Commissioner Engquist motioned to elect the slate of officers with the additions of Commissioners Corley, Huber and Robinson-Walker. Commissioner Moore seconded. Chairperson asked for a motion of acceptance:

Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent:1 Vacant: 1
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Moore informed all present about a very informational DVD received from the Human Rights.Com website. We couldn't show the DVD at the meeting but she spoke with the director and chairperson regarding showing the DVD at the HRC Annual Dinner.

Commissioner Engquist reported on Thursday, February 7th from 4:30-6:00 pm a fundraiser will be held at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts supporting the city's local Food Banks. The project titled "Empty Bowls" displays the art bowls that can be purchased. Then the empty bowls will be filled with soup provided and donated by Great Lakes Catering. Tickets costs \$15 and can be purchased at the door.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments were made

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Quinn asked for a motion of adjournment. Commissioner Corley made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hernandez seconded. The Chairperson asked for a vote:

Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 1 Vacant: 1
Motion carried.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room (WEST).

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.