

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

*February 3, 2009
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Present: Marty Corley
JoAnn Engquist
Nancy Gonzalez
James Guerrucci
Judi Huber
Pamela Jones
Faye Moore
Elizabeth Pacheco-Hubertz
Mary Ellen Quinn
Tyra Robinson-Walker

Absent: Martin Hernandez
Hezzie Mitchell

<u>Staff:</u>	Ta-Tanisha Clark	Executive Director
	Sammie Phillips	Assistant Director
	Sherry Neal	Secretary
	Larry Arness	Staff Attorney

Others: Andy Steele ALCO T.V. Cameraman
Eric Hubertz

ROLL CALL:

Chairperson Quinn asked for the roll to be called. Secretary Neal 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 minutes. Commissioner Moore motioned to accept. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The chairperson asked for a vote.

Ayes: 8 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 04 Vacant: 0
Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT:

Vice Chairperson Moore gave the financial report for the month ending December 31, 2008. The financial statement showed a previous balance on 11-30-08 in the amount of \$6,735.66; the report also showed a debit in the amount of \$250 (Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Celebration/Purdue University). Interest was paid in the amount of \$1.40 with an ending balance \$6,487.06

Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 02 Vacant: 0
Motion carried.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Director Clark gave an update on the current case disposition for the month of January as follows: 4 cases were closed in the month of January. The current case load will be reduced to 15 from 19 after the 4 closed cases roll off for the March reporting period.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Attorney Arness gave a brief update on the ordinance review meeting with Director Clark and Jim Meyer regarding the ordinance revisions. He mentioned the Adhoc committee is scheduled to meet again next week for further review and that input from Bob McKee and Angie Nelson are still needed regarding the consolidation of the ordinances.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Education Committee

Commissioner Jones reported that the Black History Month contest is coming along in line with expectation.

The cataloging that was scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2009 after the board meeting was cancelled due to the inclimate weather and will be rescheduled. (See new date under new business.)

Commissioner Jones also reported that she was pleased with the line up of judges that will participate in the judging of the entries. She will meet with the judges on February 5, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting with judges will be for informational purposes. The actual judging will take place the week of February 9th – 13th.

The Black History Month contest award presentation will take place February 25, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

A discussion regarding the donations made to the contest mentioned the appreciation of 3Washington Park Zoo memberships from Chairperson Quinn. Also, Top Dog/Great Lakes Catering has committed to donating thirty-one \$5 gift certificates for each winner of the contest and will give a buy one get one free hot dog offer to every student who participated.

Commissioner Corley reported that he has 3 City Lanes gift certificates and is still waiting for responses from McDonald's and Holly's restaurant.

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Commissioner Jones reported that \$250 have been received in monetary donations with an additional \$260-\$300 still needed for prizes. She also stated that 1 membership for (Temple Gym) was donated and that the committee would like to give 2 more yearly memberships as prizes with the value of \$200 each. A request was made to the board for the monies needed to come from the Commission to cover the additional costs.

Commissioner Guerrucci made the motion to allocate up to \$400 as needed to cover the cost for the Black History Month contest prize winners. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. The chairperson asked for a vote:

Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 02 Vacant: 0
Motion carried.

DISABILITY

Commissioner Huber gave a brief report on the quarterly meeting held on January 21, 2009 at City Hall. She stated that Sgt. Ygelski gave a very informative report on handicap issues and laws. She also discussed the need for the cities and businesses to partner in an effort to increase signage in regards to handicap parking. In areas where handicap parking is painted on the ground there should also be a standing sign in order for it to be enforceable by law. Also patrons should be careful that spaces designated for vans are for vans only, cars will be ticketed.

Commissioner Guerrucci discussed having the same topic for the next quarterly meeting or reserving a new speaker to speak on something else. It was agreed that a new topic should be discussed at the next quarterly Disability Committee meeting.

Adhoc

Commissioner Moore gave a brief report of the ordinances that were being discussed. There are a total of 7 ordinances with 3 that supersede the other 4. The 4 ordinances that are being reviewed are: contract compliance ordinance, AA/EEO for city employees, human rights ordinance, and the local employee hiring ordinance.

HOUSING:

Chairperson Quinn stated that there were no housing complaints for the month of January.

OLD BUSINESS:

Committee Selections – The completed committee selections chart will go out later this month for commissioners to review.

The subject of proxy voting was tabled until the next meeting. The board will continue the discussion at the March board meeting. Copies of the example proxy form will be provided at the next meeting.

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NEW BUSINESS:

New contest cataloging date: Monday, February 9, 2009 at 3:15 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

N/A

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 02 Vacant: 0
Motion carried.

****The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.