

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

*March 2, 2010
Page 1*

Present: JoAnn Engquist
Nancy Gonzalez
James Guerrucci
Martin Hernández
Judi Huber
Elizabeth Pacheco-Hubertz
Hezzie Mitchell
Faye Moore
Mary Ellen Quinn
Tyra Robinson-Walker

Absent: Marty Corley

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

<u>Others:</u>	Andy Steele	ALCO T.V. Cameraman
	Nora Akins	Citizen

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 February meeting minutes. Commissioner Hernandez 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:

Commissioner Mitchell gave a brief financial report. The ending balance on 3/2/10 was \$5,757.86. Director Clark reported the Black History month received an anonymous donation for \$25 and is still awaiting a donation from the Youth Services Agency. The NAA CP, co-sponsor, donated \$100 and interest earned was \$0.51. A written report was given to all present. In an effort to save on city resources, Director Clark reported all departments are utilizing both sides of paper now. Therefore everyone should look on both sides for reports and such.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Director Clark informed all present that a written case disposition report was included in their folders. The first item on the report was departmental cases closed in 2009. Five (5) 2006 cases were closed. No 2007 (0) cases were closed. Three (3) 2008 cases were closed and one (1) 2009 case was closed. Director also reported Upcoming events for the month of March. March is Disabilities Awareness Month. The task force will be meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 3:45 p.m. in the East Conference Room. She also gave a brief report on the construction projects currently active for city funded projects. She presented the mayor and city council members with a very detailed lengthy report for said projects. She noted she will provide a copy of the report at next months meeting for the commissioner to review.

MEETING MINUTES FOR MICHIGAN CITY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

March 2, 2010
Page 2

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Staff Attorney Arness reported he had no report at this months meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Education Committee:

Chairperson Quinn thanked Commissioner Engquist for her diligent work towards the Black History Month Contest. Commissioner Engquist noted it wasn't just her efforts but an overall group effort from many individuals. She thanked the co-sponsor, NAACP Members, the HRC staff and many others for assisting the committee with the successful turnout of nearly 700 entries. She did note from working the BHM contest for seven (7) years some changes could be made. Some suggestions' for the 2011 contest are to change the information provided on the entry forms, possibly not having as many categories and having all entries paper-clipped instead of stapled on the projects. Commissioner Engquist reported when she contacted the winners, the children were thrilled about contest. She also had report of all the different schools and after-school programs that participated this year.

DISABILITY

Disability Task Force Committee:

Commissioner Guerrucci reported the committee met on Wednesday, February 17th. He referred all present to a prepared report in their folders. Last month the task force had guest speakers from St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital. He thanked HRC members for their continued support of the task force. He reminded everyone that the task force was not just for people with disabilities, but for anyone who wanted to make a change in the area of people living or know of someone living with a disability. The meetings are open to the public and anyone may attend. Commissioner Robinson-Walker made a very useful suggestion regarding highlighting local businesses that are more accessible for disabled and presenting them with an award. The committee is still in the process of creating a market plan to present for this ideal. Commissioner Guerrucci noted any and all suggestions are welcomed. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 3:45.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairperson Quinn presented all with an updated committee list. She also noted the Annual Dinner committee plans to have a short meeting after the regular Human Rights Commission meeting today.

The staff noted the city doesn't have the equipment to play the informational DVD Commissioner Moore received from the Human Rights.Com website in the conference room. She noted if anyone wanted to view the DVD at home they could borrow it from her or go to the website and review it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director Clark reiterated what Ms. Phillips reported at last months meeting regarding case referrals portion of the report. She noted a new line item was added to the report to update the commission on the number of housing inquires/complaints the department receives that are not discriminatory in nature but the staff still gives a referral to the correct agency.

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

*March 2, 2010
Page 3*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments were made

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Quinn asked for a motion of adjournment. Commissioner Mitchell 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, April 6, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room (WEST).

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.