

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

*April 6, 2010
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Present: JoAnn Engquist
Nancy Gonzalez
James Guerrucci
Martin Hernández
Judi Huber
Elizabeth Pacheco-Hubertz
Hezzie Mitchell
Faye Moore

Absent: Marty Corley
Mary Ellen Quinn
Tyra Robinson-Walker
Larry Arness Staff Attorney

Staff: Ta-Tanisha Clark Executive Director
Sammie Phillips Assistant Director

Others: Andy Steele ALCO T.V. Cameraman
Nora Akins Citizen

ROLL CALL:

In the absence of Chairperson Quinn, Vice-Chairperson Moore 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:

Vice-Chairperson Moore asked for a motion of acceptance for the March meeting minutes. Commissioner Hernandez noted the date was incorrect for the April meeting. It stated April 1st when it should have stated April 6th. A correction was forwarded to all commissioners before the April meeting. With that one correction Commissioner Hernandez motioned to accept. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. The chairperson asked for a vote.

Ayes: 8 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 3 Vacant: 1
Motion accepted as submitted.

FINANCE REPORT:

Commissioner Mitchell gave a brief verbal financial report. One deposit was made in the amount of \$128.10, interest earned was \$0.45 and one check was written for the Anti-Bullying Grant in the amount of \$250.00. The ending balance was \$5,528.31.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Director Clark informed all present a written report was contained in their folders. She reported April is Fair Housing month. She also reported the Adolescent Health Fair will be sometime in May at the Michigan City High School.

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She also reminded all commissioners the Ethics code for the city requires all board members to complete the Conflict of Interest Statement by May 1, 2010. A copy was given to all and she instructed all present how the form should be completed.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

No attorney report was given due to Mr. Arness absence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Education Committee:

Vice-Chairperson Moore noted Ms. Atkins brought in the equipment for the HRC to view the DVD she received from the Unity for Human Rights web-site. The DVD is about 4-5 minutes in length.

Commissioner Engquist reported the committee met on March 23rd and discussed getting the HRC more involved within the community. She reported the committee would like to do something in the community each month on a small scale involving the HRC. Members are currently in discussion for future ideals and anyone with questions may contact her via email.

Commissioner Engquist reported April marks the 20th Anniversary of the LaPorte County CASA Organization. CASA, (Court Appointed Special Advocate) provides volunteer services for abused children in LaPorte county. She noted the organization is in much need of future volunteers. If anyone is interested in the program they may contact her or Karen Bernacchi, the director.

DISABILITY

Disability Task Force Committee:

Commissioner Moore noted she attended the Gary Disability breakfast last week and brought back a lot of useful information for the task force in Michigan City. She distributed the information to all the committee members. Commissioner Guerrucci thanked Commissioner Moore for being such a wonderful advocate for task force.

Commissioner Guerrucci reported the committee will be meeting on April 21st at 3:45 in the East Conference room. He has invited a representative from the M.C. Municipal Service Department to discuss and get updated information on the city's bus service. He noted everyone is invited to attend and the meeting is open to the public.

ANNUAL DINNER:

Director Clark noted the committee is looking to changing the logistics of the scholarship distribution. She has spoken with the Unity Foundation regarding having the MCHRC scholarship advertised on its web-site. If all goes well, the 2010 scholarship will be advertised on the site and definitely the 2011 scholarship will be. She also reported she had contacted the area High Schools to have the information

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place in the school's newsletter/newspaper. Director Clark also reported there may be a change in the venue for the 2010 Annual Dinner. The date needed for this year's dinner did not fit in with the M.C. Senior Center schedule therefore a new venue was being sought. She has looked into new sites such as the Lubeznik Art Center. A brief discussion followed. She also reminded all present a theme was needed for the dinner. Commissioner Huber graciously had copies of past dinner theme's. All present briefly discussed possible themes. Commissioner Huber suggested having the 36 constitutional Human Rights listed in the dinner program.

OLD BUSINESS:

Director Clark noted she brought a copy of the construction report given to the mayor last month for the commissions review. The report was passed around for all to review.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Guerrucci inquired if anyone attended the city council meeting for the city's ordinance reviews. Director Clark noted the council is looking at all city ordinances's not just the HRC. She noted she will contact the city attorney, Amber Lapaich-Stallbrink to inquire if any changes were recommended for the HRC and have a report at next months meeting.

Due to the county elections on May 4th the next commission meeting will be on the second Tuesday, May 11th.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments were made

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Ayes: 8 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 3 Vacant: 1
Motion carried.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room (WEST).

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.