

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

*May 11, 2010
Page 1*

Present: Marty Corley
JoAnn Engquist
Nancy Gonzalez
James Guerrucci
Judi Huber
Elizabeth Pacheco-Hubertz
Hezzie Mitchell
Faye Moore
Mary Ellen Quinn

Absent: Martin Hernández
Cory Soller
Tyra Robinson-Walker

Staff: Ta-Tanisha Clark Executive Director
Sammie Phillips Assistant Director
Larry Arness Staff Attorney

Others: Andy Steele ALCO T.V. Cameraman

ROLL CALL:

Chairperson Quinn called the meeting to order and 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 April meeting minutes. Commissioner Moore motioned to accept. Commissioner Corley seconded the motion. The chairperson asked for a vote.

Ayes: 9 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 3 Vacant: 0
Motion accepted as submitted.

FINANCE REPORT:

Commissioner Mitchell gave a brief verbal financial report. The ending balance on April 30, 2010 was \$5,699.27. He reported \$0.47 was earned as interest and no checks were written. A written copy was given to all present.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Director Clark referred all present to the written case disposition contained in their folders. She gave a brief verbal update on the status of departmental cases. Ms. Clark also gave a brief explanation regarding the increase in the office contacts. Last month an article was placed in the newspaper regarding the Local Hiring Ordinance for city funded projects. She explained the ordinance states the department should have a current copy of available city residents seeking work for area construction projects funded by the city. Therefore, the department has been very busy speaking with citizens' explaining exactly what the Ordinance is and placing them on the said list.

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

May 11, 2010
Page 2

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Attorney Arness reported he met with the department staff to discuss two cases. One case was forwarded to EEOC due to conflict of interest. The Charging Party was a former HRC and Attorney Arness felt the case should have not been investigated by us. He gave a brief report as to why he suggested this. He also reported maybe the Executive Committee should look into placing some type of wording in the Rules and Regulations for reference should this happen in the future. The second case is still currently being investigated by the department. It is a case where the HRC won against the respondent recently. The respondents attorney seems to be giving the department a difficult time when requesting information from them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Education Committee:

Chairperson Engquist excitedly reported the HRC received (8) eight scholarship applications this year. She noted this is a lot more than last year. She is requesting committee members stay over after the regular meeting to discuss how the entries will be judged. She would really like to get the entries completed as soon as possible. She has been in contact with Ms. Teresa Galloway, Michigan City High School Counselor, and Ms. Galloway would love to announce the winner at the senior banquet on May 19th. The 2010 dinner will be September 10, 2010. This year's theme is "What are Human Rights".

DISABILITY

Disability Task Force Committee:

Commissioner Guerrucci reported the committee met on April 21, 2010 in the east conference room. He noted the proposed speaker was not available. He is requesting all committee members input on how reach the community more efficiently. He is saddened that his recent attempts to get the public active in the meetings are not working out so well. Mr. Guerrucci has noticed having guest's speakers does not seem to be an attraction to the public. He would like committee members input on changing the format and the direction of the meetings. Several members feel Michigan City lacks attractive events celebrating Disability Awareness Month and would like to change this. The next meeting is scheduled on June 16, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in the East Conference room. This meeting is open to the public and Mr. Guerrucci encourages everyone to attend.

ANNUAL DINNER:

Chairperson Quinn noted the location for the dinner is still being looked into. The caterer is set and a discussion followed as to possible locations. A more in-depth report will be available at next months meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

None noted

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

*May 11, 2010
Page 3*

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Quinn thanked Vice-Chairperson Moore for graciously chairing April's meeting while she was welcoming her new granddaughter.

Commissioner Moore also reported she attended the CASA training held for LaPorte County. She gave a brief report on the training.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments were made

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Ayes: 89 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 3 Vacant: 0
Motion carried.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room (WEST).

Meeting adjourned at 5:20p.m.