

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

*June 1, 2010
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Present: Marty Corley
JoAnn Engquist
Nancy Gonzalez
James Guerrucci
Martin Hernández
Judi Huber
Elizabeth Pacheco-Hubertz
Hezzie Mitchell
Faye Moore
Mary Ellen Quinn
Tyra Robinson-Walker
Cory Soller

Absent: None

<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
	Rene Hall/Guest	Lake Hills Elementary School

NEW COMMISSONER:

Chairperson Quinn took a brief moment to introduce new HRC Cory Soller. She requested each member give a short introduction of themselves and welcome Commissioner Soller aboard.

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 May meeting minutes. Commissioner Corley motioned to accept. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. The chairperson asked for a vote.

Ayes: 12 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 0 Vacant: 0
Motion accepted as submitted.

FINANCE REPORT:

Commissioner Mitchell, Treasurer, gave a brief verbal financial report. The ending balance on May 31, 2010 was \$4,651.27. He reported \$0.49 was earned as interest and two checks were written. Check #1265 was written to the scholarship winner for \$1,000 and check #1266 was written to The Cityzen Newspaper for \$48.00. A written copy was given to all present.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Director Clark gave a brief report on the presentation she attended at the Senior Awards Ceremony on May 19th. Ms. Erika Nowatzke, the 2010 HRC Scholarship winner, was present to receive her award. Director Clark also noted written reports were given to all present regarding the city's local construction projects. She reported several projects are currently being worked on and many more are to follow. She will have updates as they become available. All present also received a written copy of the departmental case disposition.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Attorney Arness reported he was out of town the past two weeks in Indianapolis on business. He had no new information to report to the commission.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Education Committee:

Chairperson Engquist gave all present a brief updated reported on how members of the selection committee came to choose the 2010 Human Rights Commission Scholarship Winner, Ms. Erika J Nowatzke. She noted each committee member came into the HRC office and reviewed all submitted applications. Each member read and scored according the rules set forth. After each committee member finished the tallies were conducted and Ms. Nowatzke essay proved to be the best one. Ms. Nowatzke is a M.C. High School Senior who plans on attending Purdue North Central after graduation.

DISABILITY

Disability Task Force Committee:

Commissioner Guerrucci just gave a brief reminder the committee plans to meet on June 16th at 3:00 pm in the East Conference room here at City Hall. He reiterated the committee plans to change the format to get more community members active with the task force. He invited all interested parties to attend the public meeting.

ANNUAL DINNER:

Chairperson Quinn referred this report to Director Clark. Director Clark reported she sent a letter to the Lubeznik Art Center board regarding hosting this year's Annual Dinner. She has not received a response from them yet. Chairperson Quinn is very optimistic a location will be secured very soon. She will keep the HRC apprised as more information becomes available.

OLD BUSINESS:

None noted

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Rene Hall, Counselor for Lake Hill Elementary School, was present to give the Human Rights Commission a status updated on how they used the Anti-Bullying Grant the school recently was awarded through the HRC. She was accompanied by her technical assistant. She presented a PowerPoint

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presentation with pictures and projects the children created with her. She also brought drawings and essays the children completed explaining how bullying is not nice and what things they were doing to be nice, courteous and kind to others. Ms. Hall reported she spend the grant monies on educational materials to educate not only the students but the staff and teachers as well. She also reported the materials seem to have been making changes in the children's behavior according to statistics reported through the schools referral tracking program.

Several commissioners would like the see the presentation presented on the HRC webpage. Ms. Hall will email the information to Director Clark in order to place the presentation on the webpage. Commissioner Guerrucci would love to see the presentation at the 2010 Annual Dinner.

Commissioner Moore reported the IBE/NAACP is hosting its Annual Steppers Ball on June 26th at the M.C. Senior Center from 7:00 pm until 2:00 am. This year' theme is a Summer White Out Ball. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. All proceeds will benefit the Freedom Fund & Youth Scholarship Funds for the Indiana Black Exp and the NAACP LaPorte Chapter. Commissioner Moore noted for more information or tickets please contact her or Assistant Director Phillips in the department.

Commissioner Engquist reminded all present the week of June 14th is National Clean-Up Week. She reported staff of the Boys & Girls Club will be cleaning up neighborhoods in their area and encouraged other citizens to get out and clean up their own neighborhoods.

Commissioner Hernandez reported the LULAC commission meets the second Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm at St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital. The meeting is open to the public. He stated the commissioner has not seen much commitment from the community and would like to change that.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments were made

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Ayes: 12 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 0 Vacant: 0
Motion carried.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 6, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room (WEST).

Meeting adjourned at 5:19p.m.