

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

*August 4, 2009
Page 1*

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

Absent: Marty Corley

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

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

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 July minutes. Commissioner Guerrucci motioned to accept. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. The chairperson asked for a vote.

Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 01 Vacant: 0
Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT:

No Report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Director Clark reported on the case disposition update and informed the board that the case load is reducing significantly.

She also distributed Annual Dinner reports to commissioners.

In addition, Director Clark discussed the memo's that were in individual Commissioner packets regarding updates on local businesses who have given donations so far.

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

*August 4, 2009
Page 2*

Director Clark discussed the number of nominations received in office for the Humanitarian of the Year Award. A total of 12 nominations were received as of the August 3rd, 2009 deadline. She also reported that only 1 scholarship entry has been submitted for the 2009 Hawkins-Williams Educational Scholarship Award.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Attorney Arness addressed the Probable Cause Committee case review procedure. He stated that due to the "open door" policy that when deciding a case; committee members should meet at least once in person to go over case specifics before making their final ruling.

In addition he added that a probable cause committee meeting in person will produce a better ruling decision.

Also, Attorney Arness informed the board that Director Clark will send out public notices to comply with the open door law.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Education Committee

Commissioner Jones requested to continue the Anti Bullying Grant work and asked the board to approve funding for the project in the amount of \$250 for the upcoming Michigan City Area Schools 2009-2010 academic school year. She expressed that it was a very successful venture last year and that it would serve to help more students this year.

Commissioner Engquist made the motion to continue with the Anti Bullying Grant Project and to approve the request of the funds needed in the amount of \$250 for the 2009-2010 academic school year.

Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. Chairperson Quinn asked for a vote.

Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 01 Vacant: 0
Motion carried.

DISABILITY

Commissioner Guerrucci reported on the Disability Taskforce Meeting which was held on July 15, 2009 at 3:45 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference room. In his report he stated that in attendance were representatives of the Share Foundation, Parents and Friends and the Michigan City Police Department.

The guest speaker was Judy Pinkston, CDBG Director. It was mentioned that Ms. Pinkston shared some valuable information with the committee in addressing the Neighborhood Revitalization Program and the projects that are under way as a result of grant monies received to help with neighborhood stabilization.

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

*August 4, 2009
Page 3*

Some of the current projects that are in progress are: demolition of dilapidated housing, home rehabs, and new home constructions on the city's Westside (North End).

Commissioner Guerrucci expressed apologies to the Board and to Director Clark for the date mix up concerning the City Day Camp at Washington Park scheduled for August 4th, 2009. Commissioner Guerrucci stated that an error occurred in scheduling and he was unable to participate in the event. However, Director Clark did take hand outs to the park and distributed them to the children.

HOUSING:

Director Clark announced that the city had received a \$2.8 million stabilization grant. She stated as the construction projects are on-going that they will be monitored by the EEO Department to be sure that minorities are being fairly represented in the bidding process and contract assignments.

Ordinance Review - Adhoc

No report.

Annual Dinner

Chairperson Quinn announced that the Annual Dinner is on track and that a meeting with the Great Lakes Caterer had been scheduled for August 4th, immediately following the Human Rights board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

None reported.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Huber inquired about City bus service to the Tall Timber Apartments. It was mentioned that there is currently no known bus service to Tall Timbers. If residents need a ride they would need to contact Dial-A-Ride.

A brief discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Akins expressed her enthusiasm to sit in on the board meeting for informational purposes.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 01 Vacant: 0
Motion carried.

****The Annual Dinner will be September 11th, 2009 located inside of Washington Park at the Senior Center.**

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room.

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

*August 4, 2009
Page 4*

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m..