

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

January 5, 2021

PRESENT: Dennis Carroll Diana Gore Nancy Moldenhauer
Marty Corley Judy Lange Tyra Robinson-Walker
Bunny Dimke

ABSENT: Albertine Allen Melody Haynes Marry Ellen Quinn

OTHERS Ta-Tanisha George Larry Arness
PRESENT: Don Przybylinski Pat Harris

CALL TO ORDER: The zoom meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m. by Nancy Moldenhauer

PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE: Not Conducted (Zoom meeting)

ROLL CALL: Roll call was conducted. Attendance and absences are recorded above.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve minutes for the December 1, 2020 was entered by Dennis Carroll and second by Bunny Dimke. Motion Carried. Vote 7-0

FINANCE REPORT: Mrs. Gore deferred the finance report to Mrs. George. Mrs. George said she will update and reconcile the financial information prior to turning it over to Diana Gore. Chairwoman Moldenhauer requested Marty Corley to work with Mrs. Gore to assist her with the transfer of duties.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mrs. George recapped 2020 activities as follows:

- City Hall building is currently closed due to COVID-19 and has been restricted since July.
- Most complaints were referred to EEOC, HUD and other agencies. Some were directed to Indiana Legal Services (housing, employment, medical). This agency provides legal services for low income individuals.
- MCHRC made over 500 contacts (calls, emails and walk-ins). In 2021, there should be an increase in contacts and complaints. She reported that there are some calls from Michigan residents.
- There were 200 entries into the Black History Month contest in 2020. Schools continue to show a strong interest in this program. It has become part of the curriculum for many classes.

STAFF ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Arness informed commissioners that Indiana Legal Services received a very large allotment of funds. He encouraged members to refer individuals to this organization whenever possible. He has also inquired about providing support to the MCHRC and is waiting for a response. The following contact information was provided:

Indiana Legal Services	877-298-9262
South Bend Office	574-234-8121
Intake	844-243-8570

There was some discussion regarding tenants using the legal services. Mrs. George stated that there were concerns for internet access to some individuals. Bunny Dimke suggested that MCHRC be the bridge to resolve this issue. Nancy Moldenhauer also suggested that the United Way may be a resource.

SSAAM COMMISSION: No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: No Report

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE: No Report

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Mrs. George reported that Alexis Reynolds is in Mississippi. Additional information is needed in order to process the check for her. She will continue to reach out to Alexis for the required information.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: No Report

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: It was suggested to reach out to the News-Dispatch to get the word out and showcase winners for the essay/art contest. There also needs to be a theme for the contest. Discussion was held on the topic of a theme. Following suggestions were presented:

- The History of Africa Prior to 1619 (first record of slavery documented in 1619)
- Africans Around the World
- Leaders of the Africa Continent
- Black History is World History (*Selected Theme*)

Mrs. George discussed reaching out to Bill Hackney to include the contest winners as an insert in the paper.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: No Report

MLK COMMITTEE: Mrs. Robinson-Walker referred to the website link for the celebration on January 18, 2021. The event will be virtual. She reminded members that the emcee will be Wendall McCollum and the guest speaker will be Dr. Karen Bishop Moore.

LAPORTE COUNTY PFLAG: Nancy Moldenhauer informed members that the next PFLAG meeting is Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 6:30 p.m. This will be a zoom meeting. She stated that this is a National Platform for PFLAG. They can be contacted at mcpflag@gmail.com or (219) 561-0948.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nancy Moldenhauer suggested to focus on renters concerns and take the emphasis off landlords. Ta-Tanisha George will coordinate a zoom meeting for the committee. Nancy recommended follow-up with Sharon Carnes for background on the prior ordinance and its failure. Don Przybylinski stated that the denial denial was based on issues regarding additional staffing that would be needed to provide the service. He asked Mrs. George to include him on the committee.

NEW BUSINESS: Nancy Moldenhauer gave an update on the Naomi Anderson recognition event. She stated that it will include a youth segment for children and teens to participate. She would like to have other organizations involved in the planning and implementation of this event. Mr. Corley suggested to include it with the events for Black History Month.

Chairwoman Moldenhauer informed members that it should also be part of the Spring event. Tyra Robinson-Walker motioned to include the MCHRC in the Spring events. Dennis Carroll second the motion. Motion carried. Vote 7-0.

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NEW BUSINESS - *Continued*

She also informed the commission that an art sculptor will be created in her honor. The artist selected to create the Naomi Anderson sculpture has been selected and he is a local artist.

MCHRC board vacancies still need to be filled. One appointment will be made at the city council meeting on January 5, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dennis Carroll reported that there were four (4) COVID-19 cases in his congregation with one parishioner passing away.

ADJOURN:

The meeting concluded at 5:38 p.m.

Motion: Diana Gore

Second: Judy Lange Vote 7-0

NEXT MEETING:

February 2, 2021, 4:30 p.m.

Virtual/Zoom

***Respectfully Submitted
Ta-Tanisha George, Executive Director***