



Michigan City Human Rights Commission

100 E. Michigan Blvd, City Hall
Michigan City, Indiana 46360
(219) 873-1427 ext. 2019

Michigan City Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. EOC Room, City Hall Lower Level, East Side Community Room

Call To Order: Chairman Diana Gore called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call was conducted. Attendance recorded below. Six members present at 4:30 p.m. No quorum, discussions took place.

Present - Albertine Allen Soljourna Atwater Dennis Carroll Marty Corley Gregory Coulter
 Diana Gore Tyra Robinson-Walker

Absent - Bunny Dimke Mary Ellen Quinn

Note: Member Marty Corley arrived at 4:37 p.m. Quorum present therefore minutes and finance report were voted on.

Others Present - ALCO Larry Arness Diane Gonzales Jaime Llorens Guest of Dennis Carroll

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the January 3, 2023 minutes was entered by Tyra Robinson-Walker and properly seconded by Marty Corley. Motion carried. Vote 7-0.

Finance Report: Report was presented with a balance of \$2,047.09. A motion to approve the Finance Report for February 2023 was entered by Greg Coulter and properly seconded by Marty Corley. Motion carried. Vote 7-0.

Executive Director’s Report: **Director Diane Gonzales** reported the resignation of Member Melody Haynes. Her seat expires 2-2-2026. Director Gonzales distributed booklets to the Commission from Youth for Human Rights titled What Are Human Rights?

Staff Attorney Report: No Report.

Committee Reports:

Black History Month Contest Subcommittee - Marty Corley reported there will be no Black History Month contest this year, time constraints played a part in the delayed planning for the event. He recommended waiting until next year for the contest. Marty thanked Greg for his suggestions to assist with the event. Possibly a Sip ‘n Paint can be scheduled in April or Give Backs with local restaurants for Fundraising.

Paster Dennis Carroll reported on the Social Status of African American Males, everything is going well, officers are in place.

Martin Luther King Event Subcommittee: **Tyra Robinson-Walker** stated the chancellor of PNW reached out to her and another community member stating they are going in a different direction for their Martin Luther King Jr. event, using a different format this year. Next year's celebration may be within the City of Michigan City. Transportation to/from Purdue Northwest in Westville has been discussed and the idea of keeping the celebration here in Michigan City, possibly with our local churches, will allow more people to attend. Several different groups/organizations have celebrations separately, but it might be a way to reach more people by coming together and having one large event by all.

High School Scholarships Subcommittee: **Marty Corley** suggested we start looking at the scholarships and our budget. Do we offer two \$500 scholarships versus two \$1,000 scholarships? **Tyra Robinson-Walker** stated she thought at the last meeting the Director (Ta-Tanisha George) would approach the Mayor for possible funds for the year. **Attorney Larry Arness** replied he remembers the Mayor attending a meeting (December meeting) however it was not anything definite, the Mayor expressed an interest for additional funding. The scholarships were originally \$500 each but as our finances increased the Commission raised the amount to \$1,000. Committees need to meet to see what type of funding will be needed for the year.

LGBTQA Subcommittee: **Greg Coulter** will get more information to report back to the Commission, he asked if an official roster of committees with members was available. Due to new members joining the Commission, a roster will be available at the next meeting for members to review. **Attorney Arness** stated each member should be on at least one committee, Executive Committee is set by ordinance, and members are allowed to be on more than one committee.

Old Business: **Marty Corley** asked about a 'retreat' that was done in the past. **Tyra Robinson-Walker** replied she spoke with Mary Ellen Quinn who has hosted the event in previous years. **Attorney Larry Arness** stated previously it had been a multiple day retreat at Ancilla College, it has since been scaled back, held at restaurants and in recent years at Mary Ellen's house. Social event, voluntary, a way for members to visit, get to know one another, usually held on a Saturday morning.

New Business: **Marty Corley** asked if anyone present is a member of the Women's Commission. **Albertine Allen** sits on that board. She stated an International Women's Day is being planned for March 8th.

Commissioner Comment: **Marty Corley** announced events for Black History Month, he had both trifold pamphlets and calendars with scheduled events in Michigan City to celebrate throughout the month of February. Trifolds had exclusive events hosted by Michigan City Black History Month Committee then the calendars had additional events planned around Michigan City, one at the Lubeznik Center and two at the Michigan City Public Library. There was a kickoff event where community stake holders were invited and in the past the Commission had been invited as well but he did not get the invites out in time to notify the Commission and for that he apologized. The Human Rights Commission is an important commission and a stake holder in our community. The keynote speaker was Judge Shaquitta Kelly, born and raised in Michigan City but currently sits as Judge for Dallas County Criminal Court #11 in Texas. She was a great speaker. **Marty** highlighted several events planned, Black Cinema Night this year will be at the AMC theatre. Glory will be showing on February 9th, 42 on February 15th and Selma on February 23rd. After each movie will be a community discussion led by students from the high school. The discussions are good to see where work is needed within the community. Quiz Bowl and Health Fair is scheduled this Saturday, February 11th, at the YMCA. Essence Rare Black Expo/Pop Up will be at the Lighthouse Place Outlet Mall February 18th, Gospel Fest at Salvation Army on Sunday, February 19th then the month celebration will wrap up with a Talent Show on February 26th at the Stan Holdcraft Performing Arts Center. There will be a Dinner Dance March 4th at the D.A.V. on Ohio Street in Michigan City. Facebook page will have all information on it as well. **Albertine Allen** stated she had a good time attending the Black History Month Kickoff Brunch, the entertainment and food was good.

Albertine Allen announced the Women's International Day will be held this year on March 8th at Krueger Memorial Park 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Luncheon is free, no charge to attend. One of the keynote speakers will be the State President of the Women's Commission.

Public Comment: No comments.

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 5:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 7, 2023, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Gonzales, Human Rights Director