



# 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, April 4, 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 with a quorum of seven members.

**Present** - Dennis Carroll    Marty Corley    Greg Coulter    Bunny Dimke    Diana Gore  
                  Jaime Llorens    Mercedes McMullen    Jessica O'Brien

**Absent** - Albertine Allen    Soljourna Atwater    Mary Ellen Quinn    Tyra Robinson-Walker

**Others Present** - ALCO    Larry Arness    Diane Gonzales    Liaison Don Przybylinski    Guest - Ines

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the March 7, 2023 minutes was entered by Marty Corley and properly seconded by Dennis Carroll. Motion carried. Vote 7-0.

**Finance Report:** Report was presented with a balance of \$2,047.09 by **Treasurer Bunny Dimke** from the last meeting **however** after verifying with the Controller's office, a balance of **\$7,619.95** is being reported at this meeting as the current balance. **Director Diane Gonzales**, one account number was used for the ledger in the office while another account number held funds from a bank account that was closed when the Commission deposited money to the Controller's office under Ordinance 4284. A motion to approve the Finance Report reflecting the correct balance was entered by Marty Corley and properly seconded by Jessica O'Brien. Motion carried. Vote 7-0.

**Executive Director's Report:** **Director Diane Gonzales** reported on activity in the office. In March there were 53 contacts, two referred to EEOC in Indianapolis, they were outside our jurisdiction, three EEOC cases from 2021 were closed and forwarded to the EEOC office, one pending MCHRC case, six referred to Legal Services and HUD for Housing issues, four individuals were terminated from area businesses while working through temp agencies, three contacts are still working but filed a complaint on record about their employer, and four contacts were sent to other agencies.

**Staff Attorney Report:** No Report.

### **Committee Reports:**

**LGBTQA Subcommittee:** **Greg Coulter** shared a letter from the Michigan City Pride Fest Committee seeking sponsorships for their annual event at Guy Foreman Amphitheater in Washington Park. Sponsorships have six different levels starting with the Violet Level of \$100 to a Red Level at \$2,000. **Attorney Larry Arness** reminded the Commission of the rules for donations, the amount allotted is \$200.

**Marty Corley**, usually the Pride Fest request is in the budget for the year, however the Finance Committee has not set their 2023 budget yet. **Bunny Dimke** stated the Finance Committee will get together and discuss the request.

**Scholarship Committee: Marty Corley**, Hawkins-Williams Educational Scholarship and Judi Huber Scholarship will take place, deadline May 12<sup>th</sup>. Each Scholarship is for \$1,000. **Bunny Dimke** motioned to approve the Scholarships to be advertised. **Greg Coulter** seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote 7-0.

**Marty Corley** requested subcommittee updates for everyone, especially new members. **Mercedes McMullen**, do we notify the Director or the actual current subcommittee members if interested? **Marty Corley**, tell Director Gonzales.

**Social Status of African American Males: Pastor Dennis Carroll**, reported Kenny Fly is President and Rodney McCormick, Vice President. Everything is going smoothly and moving forward, looking good.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Commissioner Comment: Bunny Dimke**, the ‘Citizen’ Exhibit at Lubeznik Center for Arts pertains to our subject matter, freedom and basic human rights, and is wonderful. There is a large banner hanging when you enter the exhibit with ‘Sanctuary For Our People’ and it lists ‘Black Lives,’ ‘Immigrants,’ ‘Women,’ ‘Non-conforming/Trans,’ and ‘Individuals with Disabilities,’ plus a few more. Very nice exhibit and she encouraged everyone to see it. The exhibit runs March 3<sup>rd</sup> through June 16th.

**Marty Corley**, Saturday, April 8th, will be the City-wide Easter Egg Hunt at Washington Park with gates opening at 11:00 a.m. and the hunt at 12:00 noon. There are different age groups and plenty of fun for the kids. Bags will be available for collecting the eggs. Several eggs have golden tickets which allow the children to redeem them for prizes. Tomorrow at the Senior Center the eggs will be filled, and anyone interested may join. Pizza will be served at 11:00 a.m. for the volunteers. Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, HE, Holistic Evolution will be conducting a Health Fair for males of color, ages 16-24, from Lake, Porter and La Porte County. Free event at Michigan City High School 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sponsorships are available, events such as a Mother/Son obstacle race, group exercise training, yoga instruction, a masseuse will be on site and free haircuts will be available.

**Public Comment: Liaison Don Przybylinski**, ADA Warning Pads or Bubble Pads will be installed on Franklin Street from 11<sup>th</sup> Street down to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Redevelopment Commission agreed to installing the pads for those that are visually impaired to feel the raised, truncated domes with their feet, and alert them to an upcoming intersection or other potential hazards. Possibly Washington Street and Pine Street may see the pads in the future. Don stated he originally started at St. John’s Road north to Coolspring Avenue then continued north to 11<sup>th</sup> Street, down Franklin Street. He encouraged new Board Members to sign up for the subcommittees.

**Adjournment:** The meeting concluded at 5:12 p.m. with a motion by Marty Corley and properly seconded by Pastor Dennis Carroll. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

**Next Meeting:** May 2, 2023, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Gonzales, Human Rights Director