

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

August 3, 2021

PRESENT: Albertine Allen Judy Lange Mary Ellen Quinn
Dennis Carroll Nancy Moldenhauer Tyra Robinson-Walker
Bunny Dimke Aaron O'Reilly

ABSENT: Marty Corley Diana Gore Melody Haynes

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

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Nancy Moldenhauer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Not Conducted

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve minutes for June 2021 was entered by Dennis Carroll and properly seconded by Judy Lange. Motion carried. Vote 8-0

A motion to approve minutes for July 2021 was entered by Judy Lange and properly seconded by Tyra Robinson-Walker. Motion carried. Vote 8-0

FINANCE REPORT: Mrs. George distributed the Funds Transaction Report to Commissioners. She reported that there was no activity in the month of July and that the balance remains at \$2661.29. Commissioner Moldenhauer asked to have the status of the Naomi Anderson \$250 donation changed from *pending* to *disbursed*. Commissioner Moldenhauer thanked the Commission for the donation. A motion to approve the Funds Transaction Report, with the correction, was made by Mary Ellen Quinn and properly second by Bunny Dimke. Motion carried. Vote 8-0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mrs. George provided commissioners with a written report. It is being included with the minutes.

- 1) Activity Report – Mrs. George reported 72 contacts for the HRC office during July. She stated that the increase over June was expected due to the building being fully open. This number includes phone calls & walk-ins.
- 2) Case Disposition – There are three (3) active cases in the investigation status.
Two new cases in July: 2021-02 filed on July 1 and 2021-03 filed on July 30.
2021-01: Investigation status. Waiting on information from respondent.
2021-02: Waiting response from respondent. Response due 08/31/2021
2021-03: Respondent made aware of charges. Response due.
- 3) Consortium Update – New dates are September 14-17, 2021. The Director provided an agenda and costs associated with the various meetings. Mrs. George asked commissioners to volunteer to help with the event (registration, finding rooms, handing out information, etc.). The event will be in-person and virtual. Mrs. George informed members that plans are to have Peter Buttigieg, the U. S. Secretary of Transportation present virtually. Larry Arness encouraged Commissioners to participate for a networking opportunity. Mrs. George will investigate the possibility of paying for commissioners that attend from the department budget.
- 4) Probable Cause Case Training via Zoom – August 23-27. Nancy Moldenhauer requested to have an email sent to all commissioners with details for the training.
- 5) Mrs. George is working with the building trades union to include more people of color and women in these careers to fill a vacuum that will exist as individuals leave the industry. A workshop was held on July 19th and they are planning to host another workshop. Discussion was held on finding a method to effectively implement the Indiana Plan for LaPorte County. Future classes will also be held in Michigan City to eliminate the transportation issue.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Continued

Mrs. George expressed concern for the need to have a pre-apprentice program for the apprentice program. She shared that she was pleased that building trades representatives attended the workshop and provided valuable input to the discussions. She noted that this was the first time she witnessed their participation.

STAFF ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Attorney Arness reminded commissioners of the low balance in the Commission Fund going into to 2021-22 budget period. He noted that the balance in the account of \$2661.29 does not cover the \$7000 budget for the year.

Zoom Meeting Votes – Attorney Arness stated that the items that were voted on during zoom meetings needed to have official approval according to the updated Open-Door law. He also emphasized that if you participate in a meeting virtually, your vote will not count. A motion to approve the items voted on during zoom meetings was entered by Aaron O'Reilly and properly seconded by Judy Lange. Motion carried. Vote 8-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: No Report

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE: No Report

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: No Report.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Judy Lange reported that they are looking into a giveback night at Galveston's on September 16, 2021. She signed up for the 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. time. Galveston's will donate back 20%. Mrs. Lange will have coupons at the September meeting. Mrs. Lange is not sure if it applies to carry-outs but she find out.

SSAAM COMMISSION: No Report

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: There was no report. Commissioner Moldenhauer reminded members that this committee needs a chair.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: No Report

MLK COMMITTEE: Tyra Robinson-Walker informed members that this committee will meet in two weeks to discuss the keynote speaker for the 2022 celebration.

LAPORTE COUNTY PFLAG: Commissioner O'Reilly stated that Pride events held in June were very successful. He was pleased to see businesses hosting their own individual events with the proceeds going to PFLAG. He noted that in some cases, this amount was double. He informed members that they are planning some activities for October to be announced. Nancy Moldenhauer congratulated him on his appointment to the PFLAG board of directors.

LAPORTE COUNTY PFLAG: Continued

Commissioner O'Reilly reminded members that the monthly meeting for PFLAG is held the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00. These meetings are held at the Holcroft Center for Performing Arts. The next meeting is August 4, 2021 and will feature a game night. All members and supporters are welcome.

TENANT/LANDLORD: No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

Donation: Nancy Moldenhauer once again thanked commissioners for approving the donation to the Naomi Anderson event held on June 19th. It was reported that the contest for Naomi Anderson will be held at all grade levels. Betsy Kohn (MCAS) and Abby May from Safe Harbor are assisting. The Committee is also looking to involve the Boys & Girls Club. There will be an art contest for elementary students, an essay contest for middle school students and a video piece contest for high school students.

Barbara Slater: Albertine Allen informed commissioners that this project is on hold. She clarified that Barbara Slater won an Olympic gold medal and later became a physical education teacher and track coach at Michigan City Rogers. She also taught at Barker middle school.

NEW BUSINESS: No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Don Przybylinski inquired about the status of diversity and inclusion training for city employees that was promised by Mayor Parry. Mrs. George informed members that supervisor training is 99% complete. The training will be downloaded for all employees to participate. She is in the process of designing a training program for employees that will be conducted on an annual basis.

Commissioner Moldenhauer extended an invitation to the public to attend future meetings of the Human Rights Commission.

ADJOURN:

Motion: Albertine Allen

Second: Judy Lange

Vote: 8-0

The meeting concluded at 5:16 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

September 7, 2021, 4:30 p.m. – City Hall

Respectfully Submitted

Ta-Tanisha George, Executive Director