

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

October 5, 2021

PRESENT: Albertine Allen Bunny Dimke Nancy Moldenhauer
Soljourna Atwater Diana Gore Mary Ellen Quinn
Dennis Carroll Melody Haynes Tyra Robinson-Walker
Marty Corley Judy Lange

ABSENT: Aaron O'Reilly

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve minutes for August 2021 was entered by Marty Corley and properly second by Mary Ellen Quinn. Motion carried. Vote 11-0

FINANCE REPORT: Mrs. Gore distributed the financial report to all commissioners. She noted that there had been no change in the account and that the balance remains at \$2,661.29. Judy Lange entered a motion to approve the financial report as presented. It was seconded by Dennis Carroll. Motion carried. Vote 11-0

Nancy Moldenhauer requested to change the order of the agenda to accommodate Commissioner Corleys' request to present his committee reports due to an early departure.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Marty Corley reported that the committee met in June and that Albertine Allen and Judy Lange attended. He reported the scholarship committee recommendation for the 2021 winners as follows:

Hawkins-Williams Educational Scholarship: Anastasia Attar
Judi Huber Educational Scholarship: Arturo Munoz

A motion to approve the committee's selection of winners for the 2021 scholarships was entered by Bunny Dimke and second by Melody Haynes. Motion carried. Vote 11-0

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Commissioner Corley reported that the Giveback at Galveston's was a success and thanked Judy Lange for her continued support and participation. Mrs. Lange reported that \$280 was raised through this event. An additional \$20 was donated to bring the total to \$300. During discussions, commissioners donated additional funds to the event. Nancy Moldenhauer reported a \$50 donation from Commissioner Allen who was unable to attend. Commissioners Carroll, Dimke and Secretary Harris each also donated \$20. The total funds raised was \$410. Mary Ellen Quinn gave a shout out to Terri Brophy. She celebrated her birthday at Gavelston's and brought several friends to the fundraiser.

Commissioner Haynes informed members that she is looking into an opportunity with Little Caesar's to purchase Pizza kits for \$20-\$22. The Commission will make \$6 per kit sold and there is no upfront cost to purchase the kits. She will follow-up for the best timeframe for this activity.

Commissioner Dimke stated that she would like to do another Paint & Sip, hopefully, between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Commissioner Robinson-Walker suggested using the paintings for gifts. Marty Corley will schedule a meeting to finalize recommendations for additional fundraisers.

SSAAM: Marty Corley announced that Ester Lewis of Holistic Evolution will be presenting a Future Fair on October 14, 2021 in Gary at the Don & Barbara White Center. Holistic Evolution is a mentor organization for black males ages 16-24 in Lake County. The fair is for black males ages 19-24. They will have buses available to assist with transportation. Mr. Corley and both police chiefs from Michigan City will attend. Commissioners were asked to make referrals to Marty Corley.

Nancy Moldenhauer informed members that Dennis Carroll had been featured in a video produced by The Michigan City Rotary Club that shared his journey with polio. Commissioner Carroll commented on his time spent in the “iron lung”, explained the Polio virus and the recovery process. He also discussed the similarities between Polio, COVID-19 and the vaccines for both. He encouraged everyone to get the vaccine. The video is posted on both HRC and MC Rotary websites.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Mrs. George introduced Soljourna Atwater as the newest member of the Commission. She gave a brief background on Mrs. Atwater which included her previous tenure on the office staff. She currently is the Assistant Director with the LaPorte County Community Corrections. Commissioners welcomed her to the group.

Mrs. George distributed the Executive Director’s report. She highlighted that case 2021-03 was referred to EEOC in order not to compromise the charge. She asked commissioners to feel free to contact her with any other questions regarding the report. It is included with the minutes.

STAFF ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

Attorney Arness informed commissioners that the election of officers will be held in December. A nominating committee needs to be formed to identify candidates for the following:

Officers	Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer
Executive Committee	Officers and two at-large Commissioners
SSAAM	One Commissioner

Nominating Committee: Judy Lange, Mary Ellen Quinn and Albertine Allen volunteered to serve.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: No Report

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE: No Report

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: No Report - Commissioner Moldenhauer reminded members that this committee needs a chair. She added that an education background is not required although past chairs were educators. Commissioner Allen asked what the purpose of the committee was. Nancy Moldenhauer suggested a review of all the auxiliary committees for the purpose of possibly combining committees with similar functions.

Bunny Dimke announced that September was **Deaf Awareness Month** and she shared several interesting facts. First, she reported that all Michigan City government meetings now have closed caption for the hearing impaired. Another interesting fact she shared is that there is no universal sign language. She advised that anyone wanting to learn sign language should learn it from someone who uses it.

Commissioner Dimke also reported she met with Shannon Eason, Assistant Director of M.C. Park Department and Stacy Attar, the Director of Student Support Services for Michigan City Area Schools. They are conducting a survey for parents of special education students to assess needs. Commissioner Moldenhauer announced that former Human Rights Commissioner, Joanne Tedesco has offered her assistance to the committee. Commissioner Moldenhauer will forward her contact information to Commissioner Dimke.

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GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: Nancy Moldenhauer recommended that all commissioners review the by-laws.

MLK COMMITTEE: Tyra Robinson-Walker reported that the committee met on September 30, 2021. Michigan City Chief of Police, Dion Campbell, will be the emcee for the 2022 celebration program and Dr. Nicky A. Jackson will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Jackson received the Sagamore Award on September 22, 2021 and is currently Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Purdue Northwest.

The committee has not selected a theme for 2022 but the program will be held on Monday, January 17, 2022. Like the 2021 program, it will be ZOOM pre-recorded. The vocalist will be Jenny Carrey. Commissioner Robinson-Walker ended her report by requesting that a discussion regarding financial support for the 2022 program be an agenda item for the November meeting.

LAPORTE COUNTY PFLAG: In the absence of Commissioner O'Reilly, Nancy Moldenhauer reported there will be a *Pumpkin Painting* party in lieu of the regular meeting on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Elston. All are invited and everything will be supplied. She also announced that on November 21, 2021 PFLAG will host a trivia night. Team cost is \$100. A single per can participate for \$15 be assigned to a team.

She reported that 2021 has been devastating for LGBTQ rights. Seventeen (17) states have passed legislative and asked everyone to remain vigilant. Indiana did not pass any laws having a negative impact on the rights of LGBTQ and in fact, Indiana has 16 new chapters of PFLAG. She encouraged members to contact Aaron O'Reilly for additional information.

TENANT/LANDLORD: Albertine Allen reported that the Minority Health Coalition of LaPorte County has been distributing flyers in various neighborhoods. The information emphasized that this is the time to check for lead and gave instructions on how to check for it. For more information, contact Minority Health Coalition at (219) 879-1712. She also announced that Ms. Kisha Ward is the new Executive Director for the Coalition.

The Minority Health Coalition held its Breast Cancer Walk on Sunday, October 3, 2021. The walk was 4 miles long. Finally, Ms. Allen announced that there will be a *Sip, Snack and Snip* event at Fiddlehead Restaurant on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. The cost is \$50, and all materials will be provided. The funds will go into its Breast Cancer Fund.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nancy Moldenhauer updated members on the *Naomi Anderson* project. She stated that stakes were in the ground at Westcott Park for the eight (8) informational kiosk stations. There will be an unveiling of the statue on November 13, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at Westcott Park. There will be a program and reception at the Lubeznik Art Center at 4:00 p.m. on the same day.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURN:

Motion: Judy Lange
Second: Dennis Carroll
Vote: 11-0 The meeting concluded at 5:27 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

November 2, 2021, 4:30 p.m. – City Hall

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