

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

November 2, 2021

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

ABSENT: None

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

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nancy Moldenhauer.

ROLL CALL: Roll call was conducted. Attendance recorded above.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve minutes for October 2021 was entered by Judy Lange and properly second by Mary Ellen Quinn. Motion carried. Vote 12-0

FINANCE REPORT: Mrs. George distributed the financial report as part of the board packet to all the commissioners. Commissioner Gore noted that the balance in the account as of October 31, 2021 is \$3,161.29. Proceeds from the Galveston Giveback was \$500.00. The Chairperson entertained a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Commissioner Carroll entered a motion to approve the financial report as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Dimke. Motion carried. Vote 12-0

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mrs. George distributed folders to each commissioner which held minutes, the financial report and the office activity report. She explained the use of the folders and asked each commissioner to remove documents and return folders to her at the end of each meeting.

She announced that she will be conducting a training session for Commissioners via ZOOM this month. The training will cover the Probable Cause case review process. An actual case (from 2007) will be used during this session. An hour will be set aside for the training session. Once a date and time has been selected, everyone will be notified.

The Indiana Civil Rights Consortium decided to hold a series of educational webinars throughout 2022. Conference presenters that were scheduled for the June (2021) conference were asked to participate in this new format. Our own Commissioner Robinson-Walker was the guest presenter on October 29, 2021. In her session she addressed how to advocate for individuals with mental health challenges and the difficulties that occur when law enforcement must deal with situations where mental health intervention instead of law enforcement is needed.

Commissioner Robinson-Walker gave a brief overview on the topic and reinforced that this concern is nationwide. Police Officers are being forced to act in the capacity of Social Workers. Municipalities are moving towards incorporating Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT). The purpose of CIT's is to provide support to law enforcement when they answer calls where an individual's mental health may need to be addressed. Grants are being made available to provide additional social workers. Mrs. George will send copies of the presentation to all commissioners when it is available.

Mrs. George is currently working on a brochure for renter/tenant education. It will provide basic information on the rights of renters. Her goal is to complete the brochure by the end of the year. A draft will be provided in late November.

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STAFF ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Arness reminded 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	Officer & Two at-large Commissioners
SSAAM	One Commissioner

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Chair informed members that she will attempt to schedule a meeting for this committee prior to the December meeting.

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE: No Report

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Commissioner Corley reported that recipients have been notified. They are in the process of submitting their paperwork to receive the scholarships.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Commissioner Corley asked Commissioner Haynes to give an update on fundraising activity. She stated that there are twelve days remaining for the pizza kit fundraiser and that there have been six orders. She reminded members that twelve kits need to be sold. She provided information to the group to access the site to place their orders.

Commissioner Dimke informed members that Commissioner O'Reilly has agreed to host another Paint-n-Sip at Fiddleheads. It will be held on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. The price is \$30/person or \$50/couple. Reservations should be made directly through Commissioner O'Reilly. He will also create the flyer for advertising.

Commissioner Lange shared that Anastasia Fegaras is willing to host another giveback at Galveston's. She will follow-up with Ms. Fegaras for a date in early 2022.

SSAAM: Commissioner Carroll stated that Chief Dion Campbell gave a presentation on a local initiative to address young men who may be growing up without a father in the home. Mr. Corley explained that this is part of the "Bridges to Manhood" program that provides for speakers from around the country to speak to young men of color and provide mentorship. There are fifteen participants currently in the program and it receives some funding from the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) program of LaPorte County.

Commissioner Corley also explained how Leeds Restaurant assisted the Social Status of African American Males with a fundraiser. They named the SSAAM as the recipient of their Drink of the Month promotion which made \$1800. Mr. Corley said that he would speak to the owners and see if they would consider doing this for the Human Rights Commission in 2022.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: No Report - This committee is still in need of a chair.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: No Report

MLK COMMITTEE: Tyra Robinson-Walker stated that the committee did not meet, but they are in the process of seeking key sponsors for the event.

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LAPORTE COUNTY PFLAG: Commissioner O'Reilly announced that the PFLAG fundraiser will be a Trivia Social held on Sunday, November 21, 2021 at the Uptown Event Space. The cost is \$10 person in advance or \$15 at the door. The team cost is \$100. Proceeds will go to PFLAG's outreach efforts. There will not be a regular meeting in December due to the fundraising event.

TENANT/LANDLORD: See Executive Directors Report.

OLD BUSINESS: Nancy Moldenhauer reported that the Mayor has signed off on installation of the cement supports for the statue. The unveiling and reception have been postponed until 2022 due to many issues. Despite the delays, she expressed her continued excitement with the project.

After thanking the Commission for its continued support, she also reminded members that Naomi Talbert Anderson is probably the most significant person to come out of Michigan City. During her lifetime, Ms. Anderson often was billed above Susan B. Anthony on the speaker circuit.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairwoman Moldenhauer asked members to provide their input to the executive committee on restructuring committees for efficiency.

Commissioner Quinn announced that the Salvation Army has begun its annual fundraising campaign for the holiday season. Chief of Police Dion Campbell and his wife, Mrs. LaRonda Campbell, are this year's ambassadors. The kick-off event will be a Celebrity Coffee Pour on Thursday, November 4, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at McDonald's Restaurant (3507 Franklin Street).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Allen shared with members that a *Sip N Snip* fundraiser was held at Fiddleheads on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. It was sponsored by Minority Health Partners of LaPorte County and the \$2100 raised will be used to pay for mammograms for the under- or uninsured.

Mrs. Allen also reported that the COVID-19 vaccination clinic will be offered to seniors on Friday, November 5, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Michigan City Housing Authority. The Johnson & Johnson booster will be available. She was not sure if the Moderna or Pfizer options would be offered at this time. It is free to the public.

ADJOURN:

Motion: Albertine Allen

Second: Marty Corley

Vote: 12-0 The meeting concluded at 5:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

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

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