

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

*May 5, 2009
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Present: Marty Corley
JoAnn Engquist
Nancy Gonzalez
James Guerrucci
Martin Hernandez
Judi Huber
Pamela Jones
Hezzie Mitchell
Faye Moore
Elizabeth Pacheco-Hubertz
Mary Ellen Quinn

Absent: Tyra Robinson-Walker

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| <u>Staff:</u> | Ta-Tanisha Clark | Executive Director |
| | Sammie Phillips | Assistant Director |
| | Sherry Neal | Secretary |
| | Larry Arness | Staff Attorney |

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| <u>Others:</u> | Andy Steele | ALCO T.V. Cameraman |
| | Sue Vigen | Joy Elementary School |

ROLL CALL:

Chairperson Quinn asked for the roll to be called. Secretary Neal called the roll and it was noted for the record. All attendance is noted above.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairperson Quinn asked for a motion of acceptance for the March minutes. Commissioner Engquist motioned to accept. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. The chairperson asked for a vote.

Ayes: 11 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 02 Vacant: 0
Motion carried.

Absent at time of vote: Commissioner Robinson-Walker and Commissioner Corley

FINANCE REPORT:

Commissioner Mitchell gave the financial report and reported no activity for the month of April with the balance standing at \$6,361.93. He stated that the actual balance will not be available until the May 2009 bank statement has been received in office.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Director Clark stated that she mailed meeting minutes to the appropriate board members pertaining to their designated committee (Disability and Annual Dinner) activity April. If anyone is interested in a copy of the minutes they may request them from Director Clark and she will provide them upon request.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

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Attorney Arness made a brief comment regarding a charge that was filed with EEOC by a potential firefighter. He added that the notion that something like this was considered so the filing was not completely unexpected.

Attorney Arness gave a review of the housing discrimination section of ordinance #3283 regarding housing discrimination. A copy of the ordinance may be requested from the Human Rights Commission for further review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Education Committee

Sue Vigen of Joy Elementary School, the recipient of the 2008 "End to Bullying" grant reported on the project that was conducted at her school. Packets were given to the board members for review.

Ms. Vigen gave a detailed outline on "J.A.B." Joy Against Bullying. The outline included a time-line and a DVD presentation that was approximately 10 minutes containing photos of the students and their participation in the "End to Bullying" grant project. The project began on February 25th, 2009 and concluded March 25th, 2009.

A copy of the detailed report may be obtained by submitting a request to the Human Rights Department for further review.

DISABILITY

Commissioner Guerrucci announced that the Disability Taskforce Committee held their quarterly meeting on April 15, 2009 at 3:45 p.m. located at City Hall in the East Planning conference room. He stated that Director Clark took notes and he took a picture of David Lewis, the guest speaker, and they hope to get the information to the News-Dispatch soon to help spread the word about the committee.

Commissioner Guerrucci made a public announcement to encourage participation at the next Disability meeting which will be held in the next three months.

A brief discussion followed.

Adhoc

Commissioner Mitchell stated that there was no additional information to report.

HOUSING:

Fair Housing Month

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Director Clark announced that two of the billboards for Fair Housing Month are in place. One billboard is located on the side of Petty's Grocery on Michigan Blvd., and the other is located at the corner of Vail Street and Michigan Blvd., while the location of the remaining billboards are still being decided upon.

Annual Dinner

Director Clark announced the theme has been selected for the 2009 Annual Dinner and has been titled "Create The City You Want To See".

Chairperson Quinn announced that plans are on schedule as far as the time line goes pertaining to the 2009 Annual Dinner schedule. She also reported that the committee plans to get the sponsor letters out in the month of May to the designated Annual Dinner contributors.

Director Clark made the recommendation regarding this years essay contest to have the students write something on past Michigan City Human Rights Department humanitarian award winners.

Director Clark reported that she talked with Mr. Keller of the News-Dispatch regarding his availability and the papers involvement and will be in contact with him as the plans for the dinner progresses.

OLD BUSINESS:

None reported.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discretionary Fund – Commissioner Huber discussed the possibility of a discretionary fund to pay for items that are needed for the Human Rights Department such as, water for the board, annual dinner supplies or to take a potential sponsor to lunch, etc.

The board also discussed setting a limit on the amount of the discretionary fund. No decision was made to set a limit as of the close of this meeting but agreed to monitor the expenses for a couple of months to see if there was a need to set a limit in the future. Director Clark will need to provide receipts for expenses incurred and keep the board informed of expenditures.

The board discussed creating a petty cash account and felt that it should be left up to the director to make the decision as to how the fund would be established as discretionary or petty cash.

Chairperson Quinn asked for a motion to create a discretionary fund. Commissioner Guerrucci made a motion to accept. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. The Chairperson asked for a vote:

Ayes: 11 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 01 Vacant: 0
Motion carried.

Absent at time of vote: Commissioner Robinson-Walker

PUBLIC COMMENT:

N/A

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Quinn asked for a motion of adjournment. Commissioner Huber made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mitchell seconded. The Chairperson asked for a vote:

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Ayes: 11 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 01 Vacant: 0
Motion carried.

****The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.