

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

*January 7, 2020*

**PRESENT:** Dennis Carroll Diana Gore Abagael May  
Marty Corley 4:39 p.m Melody Haynes Mary Ellen Quinn  
Bunny Dimke Judy Lange Tyra Robinson-Walker

**ABSENT:** Albertine Allen Nancy Moldenhauer

**OTHERS** Ta-Tanisha George Don Przybylinski Pat Harris  
**PRESENT:** ALCO TV

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Commissioner May

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

**POINT OF ORDER:** Ta-Tanisha George requested to have the “Pledge of Allegiance” conducted prior to all future meetings. Members all agreed. A flag was held and all in attendance stood and recited the “Pledge of Allegiance”. The Pledge of Allegiance will be included on the agenda for all future meetings and held after the call to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was entered by Judy Lange and second by Dennis Carroll to approve minutes for December 3, 2019. Motion carried. Vote 8-0.

**NOTE:** Marty Corley joined the meeting at 4:39 p.m.

**FINANCE REPORT:** Marty Corley reported that there were no changes in the account since the last meeting. He passed around a copy of the January 2020 financial report and asked Mrs. Harris to included it as part of her record.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Larry Arness reviewed the process for election of officers, executive committee at large members and a representative for the Michigan City Commission on the Social Status of African-American Males. He also stated that it is the responsibility of the executive committee to select the executive director when required. The executive committee consist of the chairperson, vice chair, treasurer and two general members. He explained that the selection of the executive director has to be approved by the mayor. Abagael May informed Commissioners that Nancy Moldenhauer requested to be removed as the vice chair for the commission. Commissioner May conducted the election of officers:

	<b>NOMINEE</b>	<b>MOTION TO NOMINATE BY</b>	<b>SECOND</b>	<b>VOTE</b>
Chairperson	Abagael May	Mary Ellen Quinn	Marty Corley	9-0
Vice Chair	Diana Gore	Tyra Robinson-Walker	Marty Corley	9-0
Treasurer	Marty Corley	Tyra Robinson-Walker	Melody Haynes	9-0
Exec. Committee	Tyra-Robinson-Walker	Marty Corley	Abagael May	9-0
Exec. Committee	Mary Ellen Quinn	Abagael May	Marty Corley	9-0
SSAAM Rep.	Dennis Carroll	Judy Lange	Marty Corley	9-0

**NOTE:** Votes were taken through the roll call process. All votes were yes for all nominees.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Ta-Tanesha George was introduced to the Commission by Attorney Arness as acting executive director. He explained to commissioners that she will be acting executive director until the new executive director is selected. Attorney Arness gave a brief review of Mrs. George's background and experience as a prior executive director for the Michigan City Human Rights Commission. Larry Arness emphasized that the ordinance states that it is the Commission's responsibility to appoint the executive director for the Mayor's final approval. Marty Corley entered a motion to approve Ta-Tanesha George as the executive director for the Michigan City Human Rights Commission. The motion was properly second by Mary Ellen Quinn. Diana Gore expressed concern for the process. She explained that she had no previous knowledge of Mrs. George and that she was not comfortable voting without knowing more about her background and experience. After discussing Mrs. Gore's concern for the process, Commissioner May called for the vote. Motion carried. Vote Yes = 8 No = 0 Abstain = 1

Mayor Parry thanked Commissioners and stated that Mrs. George has his full support. He left the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Mrs. George thanked members for their confidence in her ability to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the executive director. She had no report for this meeting, but she will provide a full report at the February meeting. She invited all commissioners to meet with her at their convenience.

**STAFF ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Attorney Arness confirmed that the selection of the executive director had been handled properly. He reminded members that there is one vacancy on the Commission that needs to be filled.

Larry Arness reported that he is moving forward with clarification of the probable cause procedure. He has had discussions with several individuals in regards to this procedure in order to handle future cases more efficiently.

**SSAAM COMMISSION:** No Report

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** No Report.

**SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE:** Mary Ellen Quinn reminded members that the annual meeting is the one and only fundraiser held by this committee. She is seeking 100% attendance by Commissioners at the annual meeting. The committee is considering a wine and cheese cruise on Lake Michigan for 2020. Attorney Arness reminded members that he has the list of past humanitarian recipients and that 2011 and 2012 are missing. Ta-Tanesha George found that it was suspended for one year. Mary Ellen Quinn stated that her research did not result in any additional information on the missing year.

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:** Marty Corley stated that he and Abagael May are the current members of this committee. They will start the scholarship process next month.

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:** Marty Corley reported that that Bunny Dimke has been added to this committee. They will meet prior to February to finalize details for 2020 fundraising activities. Members were invited to join this committee.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** Abagael May announced the second semester inclusion grant application will be available in February. The topic will be "how to create a more inclusive environment". She asked for help to spread the word in order to get more requests.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Continued:**

Marty Corley informed members that a letter requesting sponsorship for the 2020 Black History Month Essay Contest had been sent to the Commission. Commissioner May asked about the deadlines for the contest. He provided the following dates for all contest activities.

- January 9 Applications posted (this may change)
- February 7 Deadline for entries
- February 10-14 Categorizing and Judging
- February 17-21 Selection and notification of Winners
- February 27 Presentation at 3:30 in City Council chambers. The mayor will be asked to speak.

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:** No Report

**MLK COMMITTEE:** Tyra Robinson-Walker reported that posters for the 2020 MLK Day celebration at PNW are available and added that the Human Rights Commission is a gold sponsor. She stated that the speaker will be Vanessa McCloud of the NW Indiana Urban League. She reminded Commissioners that there will be an event on 1/20 at the PNW Westville site and a similar event (brunch) on 1/21 at the Hammond site. Doors open at 8:00 am The Human Rights Commission will have a table for ten. Mrs. Robinson-Walker asked for members to RSVP their intentions. She reminded members of the state initiative to have all MLK Day celebration events listed on the state website.

**LAPORTE COUNTY PFLAG:** No Report

**OLD BUSINESS:** NONE

**NEW BUSINESS:** Reported under Election of Officers

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Pastor Carroll reminded members that he continues his work with the Michigan City Rotary Club on polio. He recently spoke at the Marsellus Indiana Rotary Club. He emphasized that polio is not eradicated and that He is working with the NAACP on a video about black and white polio. Pastor Carroll announced that he is on the board of directors for Crippled Children, Down Syndrome, MS for Camp Meal House.

Larry Arness announced that the LaPorte County Bar Association will host “Talk to a Lawyer” to provide legal services to individuals as part of the MLK celebration. They will be available at the Michigan City and LaPorte libraries. This is free and open to all. He confirmed that there are no income requirements. He suggested to check the newspapers for more details.

Don Przybylinski inquired about the “Pledge of Allegiance”. He was informed that it will be included in all future meetings. He stated that he will provide the flag.

Ta-Tanesha George shared with commissioners that she met with Mr. Ridle in December. Mr. Ridle graciously agreed to meet with her to exchange information and update her. While reviewing minutes and other files in the office, she stated she had a chance to review work done by Mr. Ridle and his predecessor, Mr. Jeff Deutch. Ms. George went on to share with the Commission how impressed she was with the work done by both Mr. Ridle and Mr. Deutch.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion, Judy Lange, Second Dennis Carroll  
The meeting concluded at 5:27 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 4:30 p.m.

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