

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

February 4, 2020

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

ABSENT: None

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

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by Commissioner May

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

PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE: Conducted by Abagael May

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was entered by Marty Corley and second by Bunny Dimke to approve minutes for January 7, 2020. Motion carried. Vote 11-0.

FINANCE REPORT: Marty Corley distributed the financial report. He stated that there were no changes in the account since the last meeting and the balance remains \$5969.75. The financial report was recorded with minutes. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was entered by Bunny Dimke and second by Dennis Carroll. Motion carried. Vote 11-0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mrs. George referred to the folders given to each commissioner for use at all future meetings. She will prepare folders and have them available at all meetings. It will include case disposition form with any activity on the case. There is also a list of cases from 2019. She noted that there is one case still open (19-14) that is waiting for additional information from the company at the request of the probable cause committee. She gave a brief review on jurisdiction of complaints stating that the Michigan City Human Rights Commission does not have oversight over Federal, State and complaints outside of City limits. She noted that names were not eliminated due to open door policy. Attorney Arness added that everything is accessible except social security numbers and certain information on minors. He recommended that folders remain with Mrs. George at the end of each meeting.

Mrs. George met with the EDC and the Chamber of Commerce regarding the 5th Annual Job Fair at Blue Chip. They are in the planning stages and inquired about participation from MCHRC. They are requesting \$500. After a brief discussion, Larry Arness recommended the request be sent to the Finance committee to present at the March meeting. Mrs. May reminded the Finance committee to notify the full commission of the date for the meeting. She stated that all commissioners can attend any committee meeting. Tyra Robinson-Walker requested clarification on this expense being a line item in the budget.

She informed commissioners that Chip Cotman, through the LaPorte County Courts JDAI program, is hosting an event that will have Tim Wise as the keynote speaker on April 30, 2020, 8:00 a.m. He will present on "White Privilege". She encouraged all to attend and noted that the registration form is in the folder.

Mrs. George announced that the Indiana Consortium of State and Local Human Rights Agencies in collaboration with the Indiana Civil Rights Commission will hold its annual conference in Michigan City, June 10-12, 2020 at Blue Chip. She will get more information on the responsibilities and expectations for MCHRC. Attorney Arness stated that he and Diana Gore attended the conference held in Indianapolis in 2019 and encouraged all commissioners to participate. Mrs. George stated that cities attending will be from the mid-west states.

She is in the process of closing cases and requested to have ruling forms signed when a case is closed and sent to her. She needs them for down state for their substantial weight review.

STAFF ATTORNEY’S REPORT: No Report.

SSAAM COMMISSION: Dennis Carroll announced that the NAACP will host its 3rd annual Trailblazer Freedom Fund and Scholarship Banquet. It will be held on March 21, 2020, 6:00 – 11:00. He distributed flyers with details for the event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: No Report.

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE: Mary Ellen Quinn stated that the committee is considering a boat cruise on Lake Michigan after the Humanitarian of the Year award ceremony at Millennium Plaza. There will be an alternate plan in case of bad weather. The date has not been determined. With a tight budget, she emphasized the importance of support from all commissioners.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Marty Corley announced that there will be a scholarship committee meeting on February 10, 2020, 3:30 at City Hall. They will assign a topic for each award.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Marty Corley distributed the “Paint & Sip” flyer. He informed commissioners that Bunny Dimke volunteered to be the instructor for this event. She is also going to donate one of her paintings to this event. He noted that Zorn Brewery will also have food and beverage available to purchase. The event will be held on February 13, 2020. All proceeds will go to MCHRC.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Abagael May requested to have a new chairperson for this committee. She reminded commissioners of the Black History Month essay contest and dates for activities as follows:

February 10	Submission deadline
February 17, 1:00	Categorizing and judging
February 18	Notify winners
February 27, 3:30	Presentation in City Council chambers.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: No Report

MLK COMMITTEE: Tyra Robinson-Walker asked for feedback on the event by email by the end of the month. The committee will have a debriefing meeting in March.

LAPORTE COUNTY PFLAG: Nancy Moldenhauer reported that the date for the monthly meeting has changed. The new meeting time will be the first Wednesday of each month at the Holdcraft Performing Arts Center at 6:30 p.m. The first meeting is February 5, 2020.

She announced plans for the 3rd annual Michigan City Pride Fest have begun. The date has been scheduled for Saturday, June 20, 2020, 1:00 – 9:00 at the Guy Foreman Amphitheatre. She mentioned that the first year attendance was 1,000 and the second year it was 10,000. She added that booths will be available.

OLD BUSINESS: Larry Arness informed members that the Fire Department is having issues with minority hiring from the 1978 ruling. Mrs. George informed members that the order was for all City of Michigan City jobs. She will provide a copy for all commissioners to review.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marty Corley distributed a brochure for the Black History Month calendar of events. He encouraged all members to attend as many of the events during the month as possible.

Albertine Allen thanked the Commission for the plant she received for the passing of her mother.

Don Przybylinski informed Commissioners that he has been re-appointed as city council liaison to the MCHRC. He is pleased to be able to continue to serve in this capacity.

Charles Gardner asked for clarification of the duties of EEOC. Mrs. George explained that the EEOC falls under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. She stated that they basically enforce the rules established under the laws outlined in Title VII. Larry Arness added that MCHRC handles EEOC cases that fall under its jurisdiction.

ADJOURN:

Motion, Marty Corley, Second Melody Haynes
The meeting concluded at 5:27 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Ta-Tanesha George, Executive Director