

FEB MINUTES

MICHIGAN CITY COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES

MINUTES: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023, 12PM

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Meeting called to order by Commissioner, Kenneth Fly, Sr, President

Reciting of pledge and a call for a moment of silent prayer for young man Mr. Nichols killed by the Memphis police by Commission McCormick.

Roll Call was conducted: **Present:** Commissioner Cox, Conley, McCormick, Fly, Benning, Moore, Johnson, Carroll, Hogan, Hurt (via Zoom)

Reading of Mission Statement by Commission Hogan

Approval of Minutes: No reading of January minutes due to having no appointed secretary. Chairman Fly stated several months (at least 7 or 8) of minutes were missing. He and Vice-Chairman McCormick suggested that a small stipend be paid from the budget to have someone come in and assist in retrieving the past missing minutes. Mr. McCormick stated that he would even be willing to pay out of pocket if necessary as it was imperative that the minutes be posted. Commissioner McCormick would get a price prior to the next meeting. Move to table until next meeting when Commissioner McCormick will have more information regarding person and price. All in agreement.

Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Benning, Treasurer, reported a balance of **\$6,098.92** and January report had been emailed to each commissioner prior to meeting for review. Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Commissioner Fly, motion seconded by Commissioner McCormick. Motion passed. Report accepted.

Under Old business, the electing of a new secretary was moved up to new business. Commissioner Milsap reminded the board that the election of a new secretary had been tabled due to several board appointments having or were expiring. Commissioner Conley stated that she had been reappointed and would accept the position of secretary. It was moved by Commissioner McCormick and seconded by Commissioner Fly that Commissioner Conley be secretary. No other nominations were presented, and floor nominations were closed. Roll call vote was taken and was unanimously passed that Commissioner Conley would be the newly elected secretary of the MCCSSAAM for 2023.

New business: It was brought before the board by Commissioner, Vice President McCormick that an "ASK" letter seeking funds / donations to the commission be sent out to those groups included on the Social Status Facebook page.

Commissioner McCormick suggested he along with the treasurer and secretary meet to draft a letter and present it to the board for review prior to mailing. Commissioner McCormick stated that program funding was needed, and the Social Status need to raise money. A motion was made to approve an "ASK" letter seeking donations be drafted and brought to the board for discussion. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hogan. Vote taken: 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passed.

The issue of Facebook page access was addressed. No one on the commission has the password to adequately access the page and therefore, the ability to update the page is impossible. There was discussion if whether to start a new page. President Fly stated that there was too much history on the page and the board should make every effort should be made to contact past president Marty Corley, who created the page. Commissioner McCormick suggested that the City Atty contact FB to gain full access and the password and information be kept in the Clerk's office. A motion was made by Commissioner Conley before going to the City Atty, there should an attempt to reach out to Mr. Corley for all information regarding the FB page. Motion seconded by Commissioner Milsap. All in favor. President Fly will reach out to Mr. Corley.

Sub Committees – Reports placed on hold while committee's chair and members established.

EDUCATION:

Pastor Dwayne Hurt- Chair

Members: Commissioners Fly, McCormick, Hogan, Cox

HEALTH:

Pastor Robert Johnson- Chair

Members: Commissioners Fly, Moore

EMPLOYMENT:

WILLIE MILSAP- Chair

Members: Commissioners: Hogan, Fly, Pat Harris, Director, (IBE) Indiana Black Expo, Brett Kelly, Michigan City Sanitation Dept

CRIMINAL JUSTICE:

Rodney McCormick- Chair

Stasi Benning- Co-Chair

Members: Commissioners: Fly, Cox, Hurt, Johnson

SOCIAL FACTORS:

Faye Moore- Chair

Members: Commissioners: Conley, McCormick

Commissioners Fly and McCormick extended an invitation to the community to be a part of any subcommittee. Commissioner McCormick suggested those interested to send a letter to the Clerk's office, check the Commission's FB page or personally reach out to a board member for more information.

Good of the Order- Commissioner roundtable

Commissioner Johnson Chair of the Health Subcommittee commented on plans for one of several health fairs to be held in the parking lot of Pentecostal Temple and throughout the city.

Commissioner Fly spoke on the suspension/ expulsion of young Black males and sent to the AKA Center for schooling. He also spoke on the issue of young Black males being arrested for being in groups and charged with gang activity resulting in a felony charge. These incidents hinder the Black males from graduating and obtaining decent paying jobs. It was suggested by Commissioner Fly along with Commissioners Johnson and McCormick meet with the Chief of Police to address this issue. Commissioner Moore gave the phone number to the Michigan City branch of the Laporte County NAACP for parents to reach out for help in obtaining information and resources Moore with these issues regarding their children.

Commissioner McCormick gave acknowledgment to Commissioner Benning for all the work she has done in the community and for the commission. Commissioner McCormick commented on the issue of the City Council regarding the building of a multi-complex costing \$28-30 million dollars. He questioned the deplorable condition of playgrounds in minority neighborhoods. The community was encouraged to attend council meetings and learn about the candidates.

Commissioner Hogan wanted to know what needs to be done to improve the playgrounds. Commissioner Johnson suggested the head of the Park Dept be invited to a meeting to discuss why the playgrounds are neglected. Commissioner Milsap suggested a letter be drafted to the Park Department. Commissioner McCormick stated that he would send an email requesting a calendar of Park Dept meeting. The board and community were encouraged to attend Park Dept meetings as well as School Board meetings.

Commissioner Conley inquired on the status of the trip to the DuSable Museum in Chicago. Commissioner Benning stated that the money was still in the controller's office. The trip is coming soon, perhaps in the next 2 months.

Public Comment Community member Tommy Kolvec reported that the NAACP had about \$100.00 unclaimed money being held by the state. He commented on the Michigan City Enrichment Fund which provides grants to community nonprofit organizations. He provided information regarding jobs at the park and beach.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 12pm

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MARCH 8, 2023 MEETING CANCELED

NO MINUTES