

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

**March 2, 2021**

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

**ABSENT:**                  None

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** The zoom meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Nancy Moldenhauer

**PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE:** Not Conducted (Zoom meeting)

**NEW COMMISSIONER:** Commissioner Moldenhauer introduced Aaron O'Reilly as a new commissioner

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion to approve the February 2021 minutes was entered by Judy Lange and second by Bunny Dimke. Motion carried. Vote 9-0

**FINANCE REPORT:** No Report

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

1. **IHRC Conference:** Mrs. George announced that the Indiana Human Rights Consortium Conference will be held June 8-10, 2021 in the Blue Chip conference center. The conference will be virtual and in-person. She reminded commissioners that the 2020 conference was cancelled due to COVID-19. She is on the planning committee and is currently looking for speakers. Pete Buttigieg was discussed as a possible speaker. The committee is working on a theme. The tentative agenda is as follows:

Monday, June 7	Small Reception
Tuesday, June 8	Full Day of Conference Activities
Wednesday, June 9	Full Day of Conference Activities
Thursday, June 10	Half Day of Conference Activities

Participation includes Indiana Consortium of State Human Rights agencies and Indiana Civil Rights Commission. Mrs. George stated that she may ask for volunteers from the local high schools. Judy Lange also suggested students at PNW. Mrs. George agreed and added that IU has also been involved in the past. Commissioner Allen also recommended using Notre Dame.

Attorney Arness and Mrs. Gore urged members to participate. They shared their experience with a previous conference and emphasized that it was extremely educational.

Mrs. George informed the commission that the last one held in Michigan City was 2005. It was completely organized and planned by a Michigan City staff of three. The 2021 conference is being planned by a committee of the consortium.

2. **Case Status:** Ta-Tanisha George reported that one case was filed in February and that there was one previous case pending. She will host a webinar in March to review and discuss cases and case management. Also, to refresh commissioners on the probable cause process.

**STAFF ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Attorney Arness informed commissioners that the Landlord Tenant report will be made in the Old Business section.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** No Report

**SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE:** No Report

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:** No Report

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:**

Melody Haynes reported that the committee is considering selling pizza kits for a net of \$6.00 per kit. She will provide details at the April meeting.

Bunny Dimke stated that she would like to plan another Paint & Sip. She asked commissioners to forward venue suggestions to her.

Nancy Moldenhauer reminded members that local restaurants participate in the Give Back program. Some offer a 20% give back.

**SSAAM COMMISSION:** No Report

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**

Bunny Dimke expressed concern that the theme “Black History is World History” was not communicated correctly to teachers. Commissioners discussed how to determine the relevance of the content of the actual essay to the theme. Mrs. Dimke reported that 10-12 of the entries did not stick to the theme. Melody Haynes stated that they were not included in the past. Larry Arness stated that the Commission has discretion, but it should follow the rules and criteria as published. Following the discussion, it was agreed to stand by the guidelines that were published. The judges will make the final decision. Mrs. George will send to all commissioners the information that was published on the criteria for the essay contest.

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:** No Report

**MLK COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Robinson-Walker informed members that debriefing was held in March. The committee will take a month off and begin planning for 2022 in April.

**LAPORTE COUNTY PFLAG:** Nancy Moldenhauer announced that this will be her last PFLAG report. Aaron O’Reilly is the new MCHRC representative for this committee. She reported that the next PFLAG meeting is Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 6:30 p.m. This will be a zoom meeting. All meetings will be conducted by Zoom until further notice. They can be contacted at [mcpflag@gmail.com](mailto:mcpflag@gmail.com) or (219) 561-0948. The meeting is always the first Wednesday of the month. All information can also be found on the face book page.

Commissioner O’Reilly reported that the PRIDE committee met in February to discuss Pride Fest. The decision was not to hold the event in 2021 due to the status of COVID-19. The committee will conduct fundraising events throughout the year. He invited the HRC to be a partner in these efforts. It was suggested that he contact Dale Cooper at the LaPorte County Convention & Visitor’s Bureau. She is coordinating the Juneteenth celebration for 2021.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Tenant/Landlord:** Albertine Allen reported that the committee met on February 17, 2:00 p.m. Discussion points were:

- Using an ordinance similar to South Bend
- An ordinance that covers all buildings (apartments, housing, etc.)
- Larry Arness provided an update on HB148 which voids all other ordinances. It passed
- Local can not make any rules or regulations on any other aspect of the tenant/landlord relationship Governor vetoed, congress overridden
- Local rules must be the same as state and federal rules
- Use the same laws as used by HUD
- Code Violations
- Issue is political (fight between democrats and republicans)
- Tenants' knowledge of their rights. Education may be needed

Bunny Dimke inquired about the number of issues that come to MCHRC. Mrs. George informed commissioners that it is a problem and that it could get worse if not addressed. She stated that LaPorte closed an apartment complex due to non-compliance.

The meeting concluded with the decision to look into zoning requirements prior to taking any action. It was suggested to reach out to Senator Talien. Commissioner Allen recommended providing tenants with a brochure.

Mrs. George reminded members that the federal moratorium on evictions is still in effect.

A motion was entered by Marty Corley to support and follow the recommendations of the committee. It was second by Judy Lange. Motion carried, Vote 10-0

**Naomi Anderson Program:** Commissioners were reminded that the Naomi Anderson unveiling ceremony will be held during the Juneteenth celebration at the LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Albertine Allen reminded members that Minority Health is registering seniors for COVID-19 vaccinations. HealthLinc is administering shots at 709 Franklin Street, Michigan City.

**ADJOURN:**

The meeting concluded at 5:48 p.m.  
Motion: Albertine Allen  
Second: Dennis Carroll Vote 10-0

**NEXT MEETING:**

April 6, 2021, 4:30 p.m.  
Zoom

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