

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

April 5, 2022

PRESENT: Albertine Allen Bunny Dimke Judy Lange
Soljourna Atwater Diana Gore Nancy Moldenhauer
Dennis Carroll Melody Haynes Mary Ellen Quinn
Marty Corley

ABSENT: Tyra Robinson-Walker

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

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Nancy Moldenhauer

ROLL CALL: Roll call was conducted. Attendance recorded above. Quorum present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes for February 2022 was entered by Judy Lange and properly second by Dennis Carroll. A roll call vote was conducted. Vote 10-0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes for the March 2022 meeting was entered by Judy Lange and properly second by Melody Haynes. A roll call vote was conducted. Vote 10-0. Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Bunny Dimke updated members on the financial status of the HRC. The account balance at the beginning of March was \$2080.83. She reported that Harbor Trust donated \$1000 for disability awareness activities. Pizzas were donated for Disabilities Awareness Month for special education staff of Michigan City Area Schools.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. George informed members that the special education staff sent a thank you card to the HRC.

There were 171 pieces submitted for the Naomi Anderson contest by elementary and middle school students. She reported that there were no high school entries. Due to seniors pursuing various other scholarships, it was mentioned to consider not having this category in the future. Most of the Commissioners agreed this was good practice moving forward.

Mrs. George reported that a probable cause meeting was held, but no decision was made. She needs additional information from the respondent.

STAFF ATTORNEY'S REPORT: No Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: No Report

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE: No Report

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE Marty Corley reported that the committee has the application process in place. The deadline for entry is April 29, 2022, by 4:00 pm. Tentatively, judging will be held May 2 – May 6. Winners will be notified the week of May 11th and presentations will be made on June 3rd.

COMMITTEE REPORT – Continued

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE – Continued

Each scholarship is \$1000. The only requirement is that the student live in and attend school in the MCAS district.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Judy Lange reported that the total amount raised from the Galveston’s giveback has not been finalized.

Mrs. George stated that they are waiting on an update from Leeds Pub House on their fundraising project for the HRC.

SSAAM Dennis Carroll announced that the by-laws have been updated and the new officers are as follows:

President	Kerry Hogan.
Vice President	Kenneth Fly
Secretary	Pastor Kimberly Williams

EDUCATION COMMITTEE No Report

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: No Report

MLK COMMITTEE: No Report

LAPORTE COUNTY PFLAG Nancy Moldenhauer informed members that Pride Fest has been scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 2022, 1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in Washington Park’s Fedders Alley.

TENANT/LANDLORD No Report

OLD BUSINESS

Nancy Moldenhauer thanked everyone for attending the Naomi Anderson unveiling ceremony. She was pleased by the overwhelming positive response from the community.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion to approve Judy Lange to fill the vacancy on the Executive Committee was entered by Nancy Moldenhauer and second by Dennis Carroll. The roll call vote was as follows:

Albertine Allen	Yes
Soljourna Atwater	Yes
Dennis Carrroll	Yes
Marty Corley	Yes
Bunny Dimke	Yes
Diana Gore	Yes
Melody Haynes	Yes
Judy Lange	Yes
Nancy Moldenhauer	Yes
Mary Ellen Quinn	Yes

Motion Carried Vote 10-0

NEW BUSINESS - Continued

Nancy Moldenhauer informed members that the May monthly meeting will be held on May 10, 2022 due to May 3rd being election day.

Soljourna Atwater, Nancy Moldenhauer and Melody Haynes agreed to serve as judges for the Naomi Anderson contest. Cheryl Chapman and Gerri Jones would also like to be involved. Mrs. George will send a doodle poll to coordinate a date for the judging.

Ta-Tanisha George announced that she is resigning from the HRC Executive Director position and that she will transfer to the Personnel department. Commissioners thanked Mrs. George for her outstanding performance as Executive Director and congratulated her on her new assignment.

Nancy Moldenhauer inquired about the proper procedure to fill the Executive Director vacancy. Marty Corley recommended having a discussion with the Mayor and then meet with the Executive Committee. Nancy would like to have the personnel department review the initial applications to produce a short list of candidates to be reviewed by the executive committee.

Larry Arness thanked Mrs. George and congratulated her on the new position. He reviewed the hiring process as stated in the ordinance which states that the HRC executive director is appointed by the Mayor. HRC can make the selection and it then has to be approved by the Mayor. Board members were reminded that if there is any close relationship to a candidate, that board member must recuse themselves from voting.

Nancy Moldenhauer received a letter from Corey Soller requesting the continued support of the HRC for Pride Fest. Mrs. George will investigate HRC previous financial support for this event. Larry Arness reminded members that the limit is \$200. He stated that the funds must meet 1 of 2 criteria. He believes this is covered in #2.

The \$1000 donation is restricted to disability awareness activities.

It was requested to have Commissioner Comments added back to the agenda. All agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Faye Moore, NAACP congratulated Mrs. George on her appointment. Mrs. Moore inquired if the MCHRC was going to continue to host an annual banquet. Mary Ellen Quinn responded that the banquets had not been held due to COVID. She added that it is the intention of the Commission to resume this event in 2023. This will be discussed at the May meeting.

Pat Harris, IBE Michigan City Chapter reminded members of the 2nd Annual Corporate Luncheon on Friday, May 20, 2022 at Blue Chip Hotel & Casino. The doors will open at 11:00 a.m. and the program will begin at 11:30 a.m. She informed members that Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins has been selected for the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

ADJOURN:

The meeting concluded at 5:19 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

May 10, 2022, 4:30 p.m. – City Hall

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