

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

April 6, 2021

PRESENT: Dennis Carroll Diana Gore Aaron O'Reilly
Marty Corley Nancy Moldenhauer Mary Ellen Quinn
Bunny Dimke

ABSENT: Albertine Allen Melody Haynes
Judy Lange Tyra Robinson-Walker

OTHERS Ta-Tanesha George Pat Harris ALCO Television
PRESENT: Larry Arnese Councilman Przybylinski

CALL TO ORDER: The zoom meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Nancy Moldenhauer

PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE: Not Conducted (Zoom meeting)

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the March 2021 minutes was entered by Marty Corley and second by Dennis Carroll. Motion carried. Vote 7-0

FINANCE REPORT: Mrs. George reported that the income statement and 2020 funds transaction report had been distributed to all commissioners. She stated that there are no concerns with finances.

Commissioner Gore delivered the treasurer's report. She confirmed that the only activity for March was the purchase of the gift cards for the Black History Month contest winners.

Housekeeping Note: The Director explained why she was unable to share the financial documents. To be in compliance with the Indiana Code addressing public meetings, the Corporate Counsel and City Clerk directed that all meetings must be shown on the *My Michigan City Indiana* Facebook page (live stream). To accomplish this, a member of the City's IT department will have to host the meeting instead of the Director. The format of the meeting won't change. She asked for the Commission's patience as this was a learning experience for her.

Commissioner Dimke entered a motion to approve the March 2021 financial reports as presented. It was second by Commissioner Marty Corley. Motion carried. Vote 7-0

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mrs. George did not offer a report. She explained that a couple of situations happened in the prior month which required her undivided attention. She will be sending updates about the Black History Month contest progress and the scholarships to everyone via email.

STAFF ATTORNEY'S REPORT: No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Nancy Moldenhauer informed members that the committee will be meeting for the purpose of establishing the budget. Mrs. George will coordinate a date and time for the meeting.

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE: No Report

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Marty Corley informed members that the scholarship information has been distributed to Michigan City High School and Marquette High School. The deadline is May 21, 2021. He stated that the scholarships are \$1000 each. The theme for both scholarships is the same as in past years. Community service, academics and extracurricular participation are also included in the scoring. Commissioner Moldenhauer will post the information on the HRC Facebook page and information can be found on the Michigan City website.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Commissioner Corley reported that the committee met to discuss fundraising events for 2021. Members present were Melody Haynes, Bunny Dimke and Marty Corley. Ideas discussed were a Give Back Night and a Sip & Paint.

The Sip & Paint has been a successful event for the Commission in the past. Commissioner Dimke is helping to coordinate this event. She asked for venue suggestions that will host approximately thirty guests. It was suggested to hold this event around Mother's Day. One possible venue that was discussed was Fiddlehead Restaurant, owned by Commissioner O'Reilly. Commissioners Corley, Dimke and O'Reilly decided to discuss the details later. Commissioner Corley asked for a committee meeting on April 15, 2021, 5:00 p.m. with committee members to finalize details.

SSAAM COMMISSION: A brief discussion was held on COVID-19 vaccination progress. With the age limit being lowered to include all adults, everyone is being encouraged to get their shots. Commissioner Moldenhauer emphasized that the shot is not only for the person getting it, it is for "all of us".

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: No Report

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: No Report

MLK COMMITTEE: No Report

LAPORTE COUNTY PFLAG: In June, PFLAG is hosting its PRIDE fest. Commissioner O'Reilly informed the Commission that during the month there will be a fundraising event every Saturday. The only Saturday left to plan is Saturday, June 19th. He stated he wanted to be sensitive to the Juneteenth holiday. He met with Dale Cooper of the Laporte County Visitors Bureau to see if there was a way to recognize both events together. Currently, he is still working on ideas. Commissioner O'Reilly is also looking for volunteers for the scheduled events.

Commissioner Moldenhauer reminded the commission that the Naomi Anderson project is being recognized in collaboration with the Juneteenth celebration. She encouraged Commissioner O'Reilly to continue to work with Ms. Cooper.

Commissioner Moldenhauer reminded members that the PFLAG meetings are still being held on the first Wednesday of each month. She asked Commissioner O'Reilly take over the reporting of PFLAG meetings in the future. Commissioner O'Reilly verified that the meetings are now in person at the Stan Holdcraft Center at 317 Detroit Street, Michigan City (Old Elston High School) at 6:00 p.m.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Tenant/Landlord: Mrs. George reported that there has been no change. She will meet with the committee and forward any updates to all commissioners.

Naomi Anderson: Ms. Moldenhauer announced that the entire community is invited to participate in the ceremony. She will meet with Mrs. George to discuss a potential contest for the event. She reminded members that youth will be involved. It will also feature a historical exhibit of photos of Michigan City.

NEW BUSINESS:

Whistleblower Ordinance: Attorney Arness provided guidance on Ordinance #4503, "Adopting whistleblower protection policy for city employees" as it pertains to the Michigan City Human Rights Commission. The ordinance was passed in 2019 with purpose of prohibiting retaliation from one employee to another. He stated that a possible complaint brought this ordinance into the forefront.

The ordinance specifies that it is based on discrimination or violations of city personnel policies or illegal acts. He informed members that there are two areas where the Michigan City Human Rights Commission and/or Director are mentioned. The first time the Commission and/or Director is mentioned is regarding providing education on policies and explaining employee rights. The second time the Commission and/or Director is mentioned is if in the event a complaint would be made to the department head, if it is based on discrimination the Human Rights Director would also receive a copy of said complaint.

Attorney Arness went on to state, for the record, that in his legal opinion the current complaint is not based on discrimination and that the Michigan City Human Rights Commission should not be involved with the complaint.

Mrs. George explained that an official complaint has not been filed. The matter is still being discussed. She also said that she would reach out to Councilman Przybylinski to discuss possibly making changes to the ordinance to clarify its intent. She will forward a copy of Ordinance #4503 to all the Commissioners. Commissioner Moldenhauer asked that all ordinances under the purview of the Commission be sent out so that everyone can become familiar with them.

Raffles/Auctions: Mrs. George suggested hosting a raffle or silent auction. She asked Commissioner Quinn her opinion about the possibility of the Commission doing this. Commissioner Moldenhauer suggested this idea be assigned to the fundraising committee and have them report on it. Attorney Arness informed members that 50/50 raffles and similar events may fall under state regulation. Mrs. George and Commissioner Quinn agreed to meet later to discuss this idea.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURN:

The meeting concluded at 5:10 p.m.
Motion: Marty Corley
Second: Dennis Carroll Vote 7-0

NEXT MEETING:

May 4, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m.
via Zoom

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