

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

May 4, 2021

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

ABSENT: Melody Haynes Mary Ellen Quinn

OTHERS Ta-Tanisha George Larry Arness Pat Harris ALCO

PRESENT: Mayor Parry Michigan City IT

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)

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the April 2021 minutes was entered by Judy Lange and seconded by Dennis Carroll. Motion carried. Vote 9-0

FINANCE REPORT: There was one minor change from the previous month's report. A debit of \$22.80 is shown on the report to reflect the gift card fee that was not included in the prior month's report. A motion was entered by Bunny Dimke and seconded by Aaron O'Reilly to approve the April 2021 financials as presented. Motion carried. Vote 9-0

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mrs. George thanked Sam Lubeznik, owner of McDonald's for providing 300 gift cards for the elementary school students that participated in the Black History Month Arts & Essay contest. She informed members that the MCHRC website has photos of the winner's arts and essays. She will also submit all winners to the Herald Dispatch for publication.

Consortium Conference: Mrs. George will send out the event website by May 7, 2021. Speakers have been confirmed. She announced that Commissioner Robinson-Walker will be one of the presenters at the conference. Pete Buttigieg, United States Secretary of Transportation, will make a virtual appearance to present a consortium civil rights award to a former colleague from South Bend. She reminded members that the conference is open to the public and will have a variety of topics for participants to choose from. The topics include diversity and inclusion, law and policy, and civil rights advocacy. She may require help from commissioners and will advise later.

STAFF ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Arness updated the Commission on the progress of the Landlord/Tenant bill which was recently passed by the Indiana Legislature. The bill was vetoed by Governor Holcomb but the veto was overridden by the Indiana Legislative body. The bill was prompted by action taken by the city of Indianapolis.

The Commission had discussed attempting to create some guidelines for dealing with landlord and tenant issues here in Michigan City. Attorney Arness noted that some language was removed from the final bill; notably "any other aspect of the landlord tenant relationship". For now, he advised that the Commission hold off moving forward with any action until it sees how South Bend, whose ordinance the commission was using as a template, handles future litigation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: No Report

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE: Mrs. George reported that Commissioner Quinn is planning to have a committee meeting in May.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Marty Corley informed members that two applications have been submitted so far. He indicated that the low response is partially due to COVID. He reminded members that the deadline is May 14, 2021 and encouraged members to refer applicants. Commissioner Moldenhauer requested Mrs. George to follow-up with counselors at the high schools

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Commissioner Corley sent notes from the committee meeting to all commissioners for their review.

The Paint and Sip will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2021 at Fiddleheads. The cost is \$35 and planning to have approximately 30 participants. He reported that 24 had already registered. He reminded members that the event is tied to Mother's Day weekend. Aaron O'Reilly requested a verification of ticket increments to tables. Commissioners will go with the recommendation of Commissioner O'Reilly. A raffle will also be conducted for items from LEEDS and one other businesses.

SSAAM COMMISSION: Marty Corley announced that the Minister's Conference is hosting a Stop the Violence town hall on Thursday, May 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m. at Pleasant Hill Church. Speakers include Chief Dion Campbell, Prosecuting Attorney John Lake and Commissioner Tyra Robinson-Walker in her capacity as Director of Treatment Services at LaPorte County Jail. The event is open to the public.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: No Report

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: No Report

MLK COMMITTEE: Mrs. Robinson-Walker informed members that the committee is in the planning process for the 2022 celebration. She is currently seeking speakers from the community.

LAPORTE COUNTY PFLAG: Commissioner O'Reilly reminded members that June is Pride month. Due to unfavorable COVID numbers, many events have been cancelled. Events that will be held include:

June 4 First Friday
June 13 & 20 Drag Brunches

In addition, the committee is planning a movie night. More information can be found on the Pride Fest page.

The next PFLAG meetings will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 6:30 p.m. This is a virtual meeting and can be found on the facebook page

OLD BUSINESS:

Tenant/Landlord: Mrs. Allen will continue to work on keeping the public informed as an educational effort. She will meet with Mrs. George to explore opportunities. Larry Arness encouraged Mrs. Allen and Mrs. George to continue this effort to educate the public.

Naomi Anderson: Prior to the meeting everyone received the donor letter and sponsorship grid for the Celebrating Naomi Anderson Project. Ms. Moldenhauer informed the Commission that due to the Commission's current financial situation, she would like to purchase a sponsorship on the behalf of the MCHRC. She emphasized the important contributions made by Naomi Anderson to civil rights and feels that the Commission needs to be

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Naomi Anderson (Continued):

present in this recognition. A discussion was held regarding Ms. Moldenhauer's proposal. Marty Corley motioned that the Commission sponsorship for the project be \$250 and Judy Lange second the motion. Motion carried. Vote 9-0

Celebrating Naomi Anderson will be the kick-off to the Juneteenth celebration on June 19, 2021 at the LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau. The official unveiling of the statue will be held in October. An announcement will be made later about the Naomi Anderson essay and art contest. It will involve middle and high school students.

Barbara Slater: Albertine Allen inquired about honoring Barbara Slater. She was a track and field athlete that established a record in Michigan City at the age of 16 that has not been broken. Marty Corley suggested to review the project and present it at the June meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. George informed members that the SSAAM is sponsoring a \$500 scholarship named after Pastor Bill Ashley. The deadline for applications is May 14, 2021. It is for African American males in the Michigan City Area School district.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pat Harris announced that the Michigan City Chapter of Indiana Black Expo, Inc. is hosting its first Corporate Luncheon on Friday, June 18, 2021 at Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. and the program will begin at 11:30a.m. Awards will be presented in the categories of "I" Rise, Community Spirit and Lifetime Achievement. In addition, a local student will receive a \$1000 scholarship.

Mayor Parry stated that he enjoyed being part of the meeting and plans to attend future meetings.

Nancy Moldenhauer noted that Kaleb from Michigan City IT and ALCO were part of the meeting

ADJOURN:

The meeting concluded at 5:25 p.m.

Motion: Judy Lange

Second: Dennis Carroll Vote 9-0

NEXT MEETING:

June 1, 2021, 4:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting Platform

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