

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

June 1, 2021

PRESENT: Albertine Allen Bunny Dimke Nancy Moldenhauer
Dennis Carroll Judy Lange Mary Ellen Quinn
Marty Corley

ABSENT: Diana Gore Melody Haynes Aaron O'Reilly
Tyra Robinson-Walker

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

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:39 p.m. by Commissioner Moldenhauer

PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE: Not Conducted

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the May 2021 minutes was entered by Commissioner Dimke and seconded by Commissioner Corley. Motion carried. Vote 7-0

FINANCE REPORT: In Commissioner Gore's absence, Mrs. George stated that the report was included in the Commissioners' packets. She reported the balance in the account at \$2,876.29. She informed members that a reimbursement of \$44.40 is owed to Commissioner Dimke for the supplies she provided for the paint and sip event. A motion was entered by Commissioner Corley and seconded by Commissioner Lange to reimburse Commissioner Dimke \$44.40 for the paint and sip supplies. Motion carried. Vote 7-0

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mrs. George distributed copies of the 2021 year-to-date activity report for the office. She stated that the numbers are down, but it is anticipated that with the official opening of City Hall result in higher numbers.

Mrs. George reported three cases were filed in May with EEOC and in April two cases were filed. There are several pending complaints that may possibly remain with Michigan City Human Rights. She went on to explain the meaning of the acronym EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) for the viewing audience as well as ICRC (Indiana Civil Rights Commission), HUD (Housing and Urban Development) and several others. She also explained the circumstances where a complaint received in the office would be forwarded to an outside agency.

STAFF ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Arness reported that there are new laws concerning the open-door law (IC 5-14-1.5-3.5 and 3.6). Specifically, regarding hybrid meetings. He highlighted the following:

- One third of members have to be present
- All votes have to be roll call
- Must attend one meeting in person each year
- Must have prior notice of the meeting
- All participants must be able to be viewed
- Votes must be confirmed in writing within a certain time frame

All meetings conducted via ZOOM during the pandemic will be reviewed and everything voted on will be presented at the July meeting to be voted on again to ensure adherence to the new guidelines. Commissioner Moldenhauer thanked everyone for attending in person

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: No Report

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Quinn stated there was no meeting due to COVID-19. She will try to have a meeting in June.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Commissioner Corley reported there were only four applications for the scholarships. He asked for two volunteers to assist with the selection process. Commissioners Allen and Lange agreed to help.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Commissioner Corley reported that there were 25 participants in the paint and sip event. The event raised \$905. Attendee revenue was \$675 and auction items generated an additional \$230. Positive feedback was given about the event. Commissioner Dimke wants to hold another paint and sip around the holidays. Commissioner Corley thanked participants.

Commissioner Lange also suggested Restaurant Give Backs. She stated she has been communicating with Galveston's for this opportunity. She will keep the commission updated on the progress of this event.

SSAAM COMMISSION: Commissioner Moldenhauer commented that there had been some challenges with zoom meeting communications that prevented Commissioner Carroll from full participation. She assured the commission that this will not be an issue with future meetings.

Commissioner Carroll informed members that there was a special speaker, Rechelle Gaston McCray of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of LaPorte County for their meeting. He shared that they are looking for male and female role models to be advocates for youth that are in the system. The program requires four hours each month. He asked interested members to contact Ms. McCray at CASA of LaPorte County.

The Ministerial Alliance will host an event in June for youth to have something constructive to do. They are waiting on the date and flyers to distribute. Commissioner Moldenhauer encouraged members to support the event.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Commissioner Moldenhauer is still looking for a chair for this committee.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: No Report

MLK COMMITTEE: No Report

LAPORTE COUNTY PFLAG: In the absence of Commissioner O'Reilly, Commissioner Moldenhauer reported on the exciting agenda that had been planned for Pride Month. The following events will take place:

Drag Brunches	June 13 & June 20
Cocktails for a Cause	June 16
Cruise & Dock Party	June 25
Two Stage Shows at Fiddleheads	

OLD BUSINESS:

Tenant/Landlord: No Report. The committee will continue with the educational piece for the community.

Naomi Anderson: Commissioner Moldenhauer reminded members of the Naomi Anderson event on Saturday, June 19, 2020, 5:00 p.m. at the LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau. There will be an actor portraying Naomi Anderson. Students' poetry will be on display discussing how Naomi Anderson inspired them.

Barbara Slater: Commissioner Corley will discuss this subject with Dr. Eason-Watkins and Dr. McCollum. He informed members that the school board approved the renaming of the track field at an earlier meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None

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.

Albertine Allen announced that the Minority Health of LaPorte County will be giving vaccines on June 9th – June 12th and June 30th -July 3rd at the Pentecostal Temple COGIC, 2722 Wabash Street.

Mrs. George gave an update on the status of the Indiana Consortium conference. Due to low attendance and several other factors, it has been postponed until September or October. She stated that 90% of the presenters were signed up for virtual participation.

ADJOURN:

The meeting concluded at 5:25 p.m.
Motion: Commissioner Carroll
Second: Commissioner Corley Vote 7-0

NEXT MEETING:

July 6, 2021, 4:30 p.m. -- EOC Room, City Hall

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