

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

December 7, 2021

PRESENT: Albertine Allen Marty Corley Melody Haynes
Soljourna Atwater Bunny Dimke Nancy Moldenhauer
Dennis Carroll Diana Gore Aaron O'Reilly

ABSENT: Judy Lange Mary Ellen Quinn Tyra Robinson-Walker

OTHERS Ta-Tanesha George ALCO
PRESENT:

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve minutes for November 7, 2021 was entered by Dennis Carroll and properly second by Aaron O'Reilly. Motion carried. Vote 8-0

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Gore reported that there was a \$1000 disbursement in November for one scholarship. The current balance as of November 31, 2021 is \$2,161.29. One additional scholarship for \$1000 will be disbursed in December. A motion to accept the financial report as presented was entered by Bunny Dimke and second by Melody Haynes. Motion carried. Vote 8-0

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. George referred to the board packet that was distributed to all members. She reviewed the case load and stated that it is growing. Currently there are five active cases. She informed members that there was a complaint entered in the housing category. The complainant believes they were denied an apartment because of their race. Mrs. George sent the case to the respondent and is waiting for a reply acknowledging receipt of the complaint.

She reported that office activity included 54 contacts, 2 cases forwarded to legal services, 2 to other agencies and one to EEOC. She expects to have two cases ready for Probable Cause Committee review in early 2022.

STAFF ATTORNEY'S REPORT: No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Nancy Moldenhauer reported that the committee did not meet and that she intends to schedule a meeting in the near future.

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE: No Report

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Mrs. George reported that she has been in contact with the last scholarship recipient. The payment is being processed and should be ready by week's end.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - Continued

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Marty Corley reminded members that the Sip n' Paint is **Wednesday, December 8, 2021**. Aaron O'Reilly reported that there are ten reservations so far. He encouraged members to get more participants. Nancy Moldenhauer suggested members call a friend and give the invite the personal touch. Members expressed concern that the new strain of COVID affected the response to this event. Mrs. George informed members that the community was close to being in the "red" and that could have an impact on participation. Members discussed the correct number to call for reservations and to direct anyone interested to Mr. O'Reilly's number. He indicated that twenty would be a good number of participants.

Melody Haynes reported that the Pizza fundraiser was conducted over thirty days. There were five active sellers that sold 49 kits for a profit of \$294. In the future, she will not use the "multiple sellers" ordering process to eliminate confusion. Marty Corley thanked Mrs. Haynes for bringing this event to the committee and her hard work and follow through.

Nancy Moldenhauer thanked the committee for the great work in 2021 and the high level of activity.

SSAAM

Dennis Carroll reported that Julianne Hill of Goodwill was the guest speaker at the last meeting. He read the mission statement and passed around literature for members to review. Marty Corley added that the services offered for job placement and skills development is an asset to the community.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Marty Corley presented the tentative schedule for the Black History Month Poster and Essay Contest:

Application Distributed	January 7, 2022
Application Deadline	February 4, 2022
Judging	February 7-11, 2022
Notifications	February 14-18, 2022
Award Ceremony	February 24 or 25, 2022

He stated that the committee is still in need of a theme. Nancy Moldenhauer suggested using Celebrating Naomi Anderson. She mentioned that the project team would be willing to also donate the money for the prizes to the Black History Month contest.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: No Report

MLK COMMITTEE: No Report

LAPORTE COUNTY PFLAG

Aaron O'Reilly reported that there has been a date change for Pride Fest due to a conflict. The new date is **Saturday, June 18, 2022**, 1:00pm – 9:00 pm.

There will be no community meeting in December. The next meeting is **January 5, 2022**, 6:00 p.m. at the Stan Holdcraft Center at the old Elston building. He informed members each month in 2022, the meetings will have a theme. The January meeting theme is "New Year, New You."

TENANT/LANDLORD

Mrs. George reported that she is still working on the education brochure for this topic. Her intent is to use funds from the department for printing. She went on to explain she may also have access to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to offset printing costs. She plans to present an outline to the Commission in January.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Moldenhauer announced that the “Cookies” (concrete foundations) are being poured this week at Westcott Park. The erection of the sculpture will be the following week. She informed members that Tonn & Blank is an in-kind sponsor and is doing all construction for free. The great great-granddaughter of Naomi Anderson will attend the ceremony along with other family members and the Lt. Governor. It is being planned for a Saturday in March 2022.

Mrs. George informed members that she received a letter from the Martin Luther King celebration committee requesting a donation of \$500 from the Commission. She stated that this is the amount that has been given in the past. The event will be held on **January 17, 2022**. Like 2021, the event will be held virtually. Marty Corley motioned for approval, it was seconded by Melody Haynes. Motion carried. Vote 9-0

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers:

Albertine Allen of the nominating committee presented the following slate for 2022:

Chair	Nancy Moldenhauer
Vice-chair	Tyra Robinson-Walker
Treasurer	Bunny Dimke

Ta-Tanesha George opened nominations to the floor. None were submitted. Mrs. George closed floor nominations.

Albertine Allen entered a motion to approve the slate as presented by the nominating committee. It was properly second by Dennis Carroll. Roll call vote conducted

Albertine Allen	Yes	Diana Gore	Yes
Soljourna Atwater	Yes	Melody Haynes	Yes
Dennis Carroll	Yes	Nancy Moldenhauer	Yes
Marty Corley	Yes	Aaron O’Reilly	Yes
Bunny Dimke	Yes		

Motion passed. Vote 9-0

Executive Committee (Officers & 2 At-large members)

Ta-Tanesha George opened nominations to the floor. Nancy Moldenhauer nominated Diana Gore and Albertine Allen nominated Aaron O’Reilly. Ta-Tanesha George closed floor nominations with no other nominations submitted. Roll call vote conducted as follows:

Albertine Allen	Yes	Diana Gore	Yes
Soljourna Atwater	Yes	Melody Haynes	Yes
Dennis Carroll	Yes	Nancy Moldenhauer	Yes
Marty Corley	Yes	Aaron O’Reilly	Yes
Bunny Dimke	Yes		

Motion passed. Vote 9-0

Social Status for African American Males Liaison:

Ta-Tanesha George opened nominations to the floor. Aaron O'Reilly nominated Marty Corley. Mrs. George closed floor nominations with no other nominations submitted. Roll call vote conducted as follows:

Albertine Allen	Yes	Diana Gore	Yes
Soljourna Atwater	Yes	Melody Haynes	Yes
Dennis Carroll	Yes	Nancy Moldenhauer	Yes
Marty Corley	Yes	Aaron O'Reilly	Yes
Bunny Dimke	Yes		

Staff Attorney Appointment:

Mrs. George announced that the staff attorney contract needed to be renewed. The contract will be from January 1, 2022 until December 31, 2022. The attorney is paid \$500 a month retainer for services and any special legal services (addressed in the contract) will be compensated on an hourly basis of \$145 per hour. Marty Corley motioned to renew the appointment of Larry Arness as the Human Rights Commission Attorney. It was seconded by Albertine Allen. Motion passed. Vote 9-0

Committee Structure:

Mrs. George inquired about a meeting with the executive committee to review the current committee structure to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Nancy Moldenhauer agreed to schedule a meeting after the holidays with the executive committee. This topic will be tabled for January 2022 and revisited in February 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURN:

Motion: Marty Corley
Second: Melody Haynes
The meeting concluded at 5:23 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

January 4, 2022, 4:30 p.m. – City Hall

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