

ERIE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON JUNE 30, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair, Tom Wellington at 6:05 p.m. on June 30, 2014. The following Commission members were in attendance: Tom Wellington, Amy Danzer, Judy Jobs (by phone), Robert Currie and George Morgan III. The following Commission staff members were also present: Joseph Aguglia, Charlotte Scalise and Heidi Meyer. The following Commission members were absent: Mary Hayes, Victoria Taylor and Willie McAdory.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was cast by Amy Danzer to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 28, 2014 (there was no meeting held in May, due to a lack of quorum), as written. The Motion was seconded by George Morgan. All were in favor.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Joseph Aguglia discussed the "New Business" and "Old Business" on the agenda.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. TESTING: Joseph Aguglia reported that in trying to set up the testing that the City of Erie has requested that the HRC conduct (as part of the City's fulfillment of its "affirmatively furthering fair housing" requirements for its receipt of Community Development Block Grant funding through the federal government), the same problem as the Commission has found in the past is reoccurring – i.e. it has been difficult to find people willing to be the "testers." He has approached several organizations for assistance, to no avail. Charlotte Scalise is trying to get information from Susan Scovill (formerly of the National Fair Housing Training Academy) regarding the parameters of the testing and whether or not friends and/or family of Commission and Board members can be utilized as testers, since the purpose of the testing is for research rather than case generation. She is awaiting a returned phone call/email. A few of the Commissioners provided contact information for some local organizations they think may be helpful in providing testers. The staff will continue to work on the issue.

B. NEW COMMISSIONER: The County Executive has reportedly made her appointment to the Commission. It is hopeful that the new Commissioner will be in attendance at the July meeting. With a full Commission, elections for the positions of Vice-Chair and Secretary will be possible in the near future.

C. CELEBRATE ERIE: Joseph Aguglia opined that the Commission should again have an informational table at the annual Celebrate Erie event in August. Charlotte Scalise will have the dates and times of the event available for the next Commission meeting. Staff requests that the Commissioners volunteer some time at the booth this year.

D. CHRB FUNDING: Charlotte Scalise reported that the City of Erie has grant money that was formerly administered by the Community Housing Resource Board and that she would like to ask for some of those funds to be used to run HRC's Fair Housing radio spot again. She has received a proposal from WJET but would like some assistance in interpreting the proposal and in writing a budget and proposal to submit to the City to request the funding needed.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. EMPLOYMENT SEMINAR – JUNE 26, 2014: Joseph Aguglia reported that HRC's Annual Employment Seminar went well and had approximately 80 people in attendance. He stated that there were almost as many attorneys in attendance this year as human resource personnel/employers.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT: Judy Jobs reported that the Alliance for Retired Americans is bringing in Rachel Tabachnick to speak at the Blasco Library at 1:00 p.m. on September 18, 2014. Ms. Tabachnick spoke at the Democratic Women's Council and was very enlightening. The event is free and open to the public, and there will be beverages and hors d'oeuvres following the presentation at 2:00 p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m. Motion was cast by Robert Currie and was seconded by Amy Danzer. All were in favor. The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on July 14, 2014 (*not* the 4th Monday, due to the unavailability of some Commission members on the original meeting date).

Respectfully Submitted by Staff, Heidi Meyer.