

ERIE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 28, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair, Tom Wellington at 6:11 p.m. on October 28, 2014. The following Commission members were in attendance: Tom Wellington, Amy Danzer, Judy Jobes, Robert Currie, Willie McAdory, Victoria Taylor, George Morgan III and Robert Howden. The following Commission staff members were also present: Joseph Aguglia, Charlotte Scalise and Heidi Meyer. The following Commission member was absent: Mary Hayes.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There was no meeting held in the month of September due to a lack of availability of Commission Members. Motion was cast by Robert Howden to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 25, 2014, as written. The Motion was seconded by Amy Danzer. All were in favor.

III. DIRECTOR'S AND FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. ADVISORY BOARD: Joseph Aguglia reported that members of the Advisory Board are forming committees. Currently, the Board is forming a committee to look at poverty as it relates to employment. There was a general discussion regarding the function of the Advisory Board – for the benefit of newer Commission members.

B. FAIR HOUSING ACTION PLANS AND ACT 137 FUNDING: Joseph Aguglia reported that as part of the Destination Erie project, an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing was conducted and the County Planning Department would like the assistance of the Commission and staff to assist in carrying out many of the objectives listed in the resulting Fair Housing Action Plans. In doing so, the Commission may be able to obtain funding for the projects through Act 137 (such as for County-wide fair housing testing). Joseph Aguglia and Joe Berdis of the County Planning Department have already gotten County Council to pass a proclamation (required annually), stating that fair housing is a priority in the County.

C. COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE: Joseph Aguglia reported that he attended a County Council meeting this month and updated Council on HRC's activity. It was suggested to him that the HRC should ask for an increase in the HRC budget (in light of the Fair Housing Action Plan duties and requirements).

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. FAIR HOUSING TESTING: Joseph Aguglia reported that he is waiting to hear from the City with regard to the City approving a budget for the testing that has been requested by the City. Specifically in question is whether the City will provide money for the advertising of the Request for Proposal to be published in newspapers throughout the Region. The HRC does not want to go to the expense of advertising the RFP if the City is ultimately not going to fund the project.

B. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH: Charlotte Scalise reminded Commission members to please let the staff know about any events that a representative of the HRC could attend in order to raise awareness about the Commission and its Mission. Commission members and staff discussed possible sources of contact within several communities in the City and County.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ANNUAL HOUSING SEMINAR (APRIL 28, 2015): Charlotte Scalise asked Commission members to “save the date” for the HRC Housing Seminar in 2015. She is working on scheduling speakers and welcomes input with regard to topics that members would like to see addressed.

B. TRAFFIC STOP TRAINING: Heidi Meyer reported that staff attended the training sponsored by the NAACP and City and State Police at the Blasco Library on October 16, 2014. Joseph Aguglia indicated that the Advisory Board may form a committee involving the Police.

C. TUESDAY MEETING SCHEDULE: Joseph Aguglia polled the Commission members present as to whether or not the change of the day of the week for the Commission meetings to Tuesdays is acceptable. The consensus was that Tuesdays are better than Mondays.

D. NOMINATIONS FOR COMMISSION OFFICERS FOR 2015: The following nominations were made and accepted for the 2015 Commission offices:

CHAIR: George Morgan III – Nominated by Victoria Taylor

VICE-CHAIR: Robert Howden – Nominated by George Morgan III

SECRETARY: Amy Danzer – Nominated by Victoria Taylor and Robert Howden

A formal vote will take place at either the November, 2014 meeting or the January, 2015 meeting of the Commission.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. Motion was cast by Amy Danzer and was seconded by Robert Currie. All were in favor. The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on TUESDAY, November 25, 2014. There will be NO MEETING in the month of DECEMBER, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted by Commission Staff, Heidi Meyer.