

ERIE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 28, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair, Tom Wellington, at 6:12 p.m. on October 28, 2013. The following Commission members were in attendance: Tom Wellington, Amy Danzer, Judy Jobs, Mary Hayes, Robert Currie, and Willie McAdory. The following Commission staff members were also present: Joseph Aguglia, Charlotte Scalise and Heidi Meyer. The following Commission member was absent: Ebony Davis. It was announced that Ebony Davis has resigned since the last Commission meeting. One Guest, Tecumseh Brown-Eagle (of the Advisory Board), was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was cast by Amy Danzer to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 23, 2013, as written. The Motion was seconded by Mary Hayes. All were in favor. There was some discussion regarding Destination Erie, as Tecumseh Brown-Eagle expressed that the Native American community feels excluded from the process. Charlotte Scalise will follow up with the appropriate person(s) with Destination Erie and will provide Mr. Brown-Eagle with appropriate contact information.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A. CASES: Joseph Aguglia expressed that there are communities within Erie County from which the Commission does not get any or many cases. There was discussion regarding some communities and suggestions on outreach locations. There was also discussion regarding problems with the education system in the area, as well as Erie's status with regard to "hate groups" and inequality/lack of diversity in the business arena.

B. CHARLES FAULKERSON: Joseph Aguglia said a few words in honor of long-time Advisory Board Member/Chairperson, Charles Faulkerson, who has recently passed away.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH: Commission members should contact staff with any events or other ideas for education and outreach. Joseph Aguglia will "team up" with Tecumseh Brown-Eagle to go into his community for outreach.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ADVISORY BOARD: Joseph Aguglia reported that, after being plagued by health issues of some of its members, the Advisory Board is again becoming active. County Council and City Council members still need to make appointments (or re-appointments in some cases) for vacancies, but there are several people interested in sitting on the Advisory Board. Tecumseh Brown-Eagle was present to explain that the Board wants to look into certain areas of concern to the community and to conduct research and that the Board wants to amend the By-Laws to allow for more Board autonomy. There was discussion regarding the scope of the Human Relations Commission Ordinance and the role

of the Advisory Board. It was discussed that the Board members need to be appointed or re-appointed before the Commission can entertain a request for a change in the By-Laws by the Board. It was agreed that there should be diversity in the Board members who are appointed. Any suggestions for potential Board members should be provided to Charlotte Scalise at the Commission office.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 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 November 25, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted by Staff, Heidi Meyer.