

ERIE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 25, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair, Tom Wellington, at 6:19 p.m. on November 25, 2013. The following Commission members were in attendance: Tom Wellington, Judy Jobs, Mary Hayes (by telephone), and Willie McAdory. The following Commission staff members were also present: Joseph Aguglia, Charlotte Scalise and Heidi Meyer. The following Commission members were absent: Amy Danzer and Robert Currie.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was cast by Mary Hayes to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 28, 2013, as written. The Motion was seconded by Willie McAdory. All were in favor.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A. ADVISORY BOARD: Joseph Aguglia provided a brief history of HRC's Advisory Board and a summary of the role of the Advisory Board, according to the By-Laws. There was some discussion as to the scope of the Advisory Board's authority, as well as the possibility of the Advisory Board conducting an inquiry into the hiring practices of the City Police and Fire Departments. At the moment, however, the Advisory Board is in need of re-appointments/appointments of members by City and County Council members to fill vacancies before the body will be able to take on any projects. In order for the Commission to investigate alleged discrimination in the hiring practices, there needs to be a Complaint filed by a member of a protected class who applied for employment, was qualified, and was not hired due to his/her protected class status.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (VICE CHAIR AND SECRETARY): Tom Wellington explained the duties of the Vice Chair and Secretary positions and asked the Commission members present to consider nominations. The elections will be postponed until more Commission members are in attendance.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. ADVISORY BOARD'S AUTONOMY: There was a discussion regarding the informal request made by Advisory Board member, Tecumseh Brown-Eagle, to amend the By-Laws to allow for more Board autonomy. There has been no formal proposal presented for vote, so the issue will be tabled until such time as the vacancies on the Advisory Board have been filled and the issue is properly before the Commission for vote. There was additional discussion regarding the scope of the Human Relations Commission Ordinance and the role of the Commission members, as well as the role of the Advisory Board.

B. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH: Commission members should contact staff with any events or other ideas for education and outreach. Charlotte Scalise reminded Commission members that the HRC Housing Seminar is coming up in April and the HRC Employment Seminar will be held in June.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m. Motion was cast by Judy Jobs and was seconded by Willie McAdory. All were in favor. There is no Commission meeting in December. The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on January 27, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted by Staff, Heidi Meyer.