

June 16, 2016

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF June 8, 2016

Commissioners Present

Leslie Clay

Gary Hoover

Kiran Konam

Odemaris Mancilla-Sibaja

Rhonda Smith

Staff – Angie Brown

Public Comment

No one is in attendance to comment.

Approval of minutes for May 24, 2016

All commissioners approved minutes as presented.

Approval of minutes for April 13, 2016

All commissioners approved minutes as presented.

Commissioner Smith advised that the agenda needs to be updated as it lists roll call twice.

Other Business

Commissioner Smith advised we have received a letter that Bloomington Township is sending around for an audit of financial statements. Staff will draft letter with appropriate response for the Commissioner Chair to sign. No other action needed.

Commissioner Mancilla-Sibaja updated commission on Latino March on May 1, 2016. The leaders that were directing the march were kind of drastic. Not welcoming and there was fighting. Commissioner advised they can attend meetings and file a complaint and talk to us. Commissioner did not want to be a part of the march, she wasn't there to create violence. Commissioners suggested they attend meetings and as a community we need to do things the right way. Commissioner Clay suggested march may be correlated with the May Day holiday with labor. Commissioner Mancilla-Sibaja acknowledged that the leaders were not happy with her. She stated she wanted good things and to be part of the community, need to learn English and help our kids in school.

MLK Luncheon Update

Commissioner Smith advised they had their joint meeting with the Normal Commission and some information was shared. The date for luncheon was set for January 14, 2017 and it will be held at ISU.

The event from 2016, total expense was \$26,000. Ticket sales plus ads sales were a little over \$9,000 (in 2015 they were \$11,210). The amount paid to Marriott was \$11,383. Comments shared were the guests enjoyed the 2016 speakers, the way it was done different and it does appear the keynote speaker does make a difference in ticket sales. Positive feedback on the food and venue.

Commissioner Hoover, do we know the outcome of the suit with the Marriott? Commissioner Smith said it has not been settled and there are court dates throughout 2016.

Commissioner Konam asked about the cancellation fee with the Marriott for not having the luncheon there. Commissioner Smith indicated it was a \$11,000 cancellation fee and Normal and Bloomington split the cost. Commissioner Clay indicated that both Commissions voted on it. It was a close vote, but the Commissions did not want to go to a place that discriminates against people.

Commissioner Smith discussed setting dates for items with the luncheon to get done and completed and for the commissioners to be available. There was not an effective way to track the tickets sold, since tickets were sold in Normal and Bloomington. Would there be a software out there that could help, without having to pay for it? If they use some kind of e-pay, who would be responsible for the cost? Maybe there is a way to enhance the ticket tracking ability, without putting that cost on the customer. Group seating would only be guaranteed if an entire table was purchased at once. Commissioner Mancilla-Sibaja has talked with her supervisors about rewarding teachers with tickets for this event.

Commissioner Smith discussed use of social media, utilizing it or Nora Dukowitz for the event in 2017. Discussed the need to do a price check for the photographer and that Nicole is going to get a printing price check.

Future agenda items

Partner with Normal to ensure an alignment of dates for action items and committees assigned to each item.

Commissioner Clay announced this will be her last meeting, she is relocating to Louisiana. She enjoyed serving with the commission. She is going to send Commissioner Smith information on ideas that the commission was not able to get to. Move forward with disabled citizens and what their rights are and Western Ave Community Center.

Next meeting will be July 13, 2016

Adjournment

Meeting ended 6:44 p.m.