



**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
109 E. OLIVE STREET. Bloomington, IL  
Legal Department CONFERENCE ROOM**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019 at 5:00 P.M.**

**I. Call to Order Roll Call of Attendance 5:01**

**Present-** Commissioners: Jones, Ajayi, West, Konam, Krishna, and Smith

**Absent-** Commissioner McGinnis

Introduction of new Commissioners

**II. Public Comment**

None

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

- a. Consideration of approving the minutes of the Human Relations Commission meeting of Wednesday February 13, 2019. Commissioner Konam motioned to approve the minutes of February 13, 2019. Commissioner Krishna seconded the motion. All in favor.

**IV. Agenda Items**

- a. Debrief on MLK Event

Commissioner Konam stated the program needed more items to fill in the time in terms of entertainment. Commissioner Konam also stated that some individuals, who purchased tickets for the MLK luncheon, did not purchase tickets for the reception but showed up expecting to be seated. She deferred to Commissioner Jones to sort it out.

Commissioner Krishna had some feedback that individuals preferred the luncheon to the reception format. Commissioner Krishna questioned the absence of the singing of the National Anthem. He stated that some of the attendees asked about the absence of the national anthem. Commissioner Jones stated that part of the streamlining of the event eliminated some of the items from the luncheon. Commissioner Krishna preferred that the Commissioners were informed of the change. Commissioner Krishna ended by saying that in the future he would like the Commissioners informed of any changes. Commissioner Krishna stated that he was also questioned about the rise in ticket price.

Commissioner Smith stated that some attendees questioned why the event was still being held because it is now the month of March. Commissioner Smith stated that

part of the reason was to provide a proper forum for presentation to the awardees rather than have them receive their awards in the Mayors' office.

Commissioner Smith also preferred the reception format. It allowed the attendees to mingle and visit as opposed to being assigned to a table. Commissioner Ajayi stated that he would prefer the reception format as opposed to static seating with a sit down dinner. However, he wanted to compare the cost of the different formats for fiscal efficiency.

Commissioner Jones wanted a final decision on whether or not to include the Town of Normal (TON) in future MLK Events. Commissioner Smith suggested the Commission move ahead without the TON's participation. She does not want to approach the TON to try to convince them to partner with us. A lot of lead-time for the luncheon was lost waiting on them to respond to us. Commissioner Krishna stated he thought Normal wanted no parts of us. In the event that the TON comes with funds to add to the event, the Commission needs to decide which direction it will go and stick with it. Either we work with them or we don't. Do not allow the same run around we got last time.

## **V. Old Business**

### **a. McLean County Diversity Project**

Remaining donation of \$ 250. Commissioner Krishna gave the new commissioners an overview of the McLean County Diversity project. The vote was tabled until the Commission receives the reconciliation from ticket sales and cost of the reception. Commissioner Ajayi asked if Commissioners can vote on projects they recommend to the Commission for funding, or must they recuse themselves. At present Commissioners do vote to fund organizations they have recommended to the Commission.

## **VI. New Business**

### **a. Orientation for new commissioners**

The City Clerk's Office has stated that they do not have a process for training new Commissioners. They stated that a training is in the works. The HR Representative will check with similarly situated cities for what resources they have available for board training.

### **b. Adjustment of the format for MLK event (reception vs. luncheon).**

Commissioner Ajay made a motion to change the format of the MLK Event from the luncheon format to the reception format. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

The ayes were **4**, the nays were **2**. The ayes have it. Going forward, the MLK Event will be in a Reception format.

**Next Scheduled Meeting Date:** April 10, 2019

**VII. Adjournment- 6:04**

Commissioner Ajayi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Konam seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.