

CITY OF TERREHAUTE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

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Minutes: February 24, 2024

Present: AT Ryan, Director; Sandy Mutchler, Chair; Commissioners: Dana Simons, Nichelle Campbell-Miller, and Uzziah Hutchinson; Non-voting Members: Katie Lugar.

Absent: Mike Reed, Emmitt Tyler, and Jeff Trotter.

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM by Chair, Sandy Mutchler.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Dana Simons and seconded by Nichelle Campbell-Miller.

Director's Report

Commissioners received a physical copy of the Director's Report. Director AT had various meetings with community members and city officials. Some of those meetings were with, but not limited to, the parks department, Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, Terre Haute 10, and Bloomington, IN Human Rights Commission.

Six different events and meetings were attended by Director AT. Those meetings and events consisted of: Climate Resilience Workshop, two City Council Meetings, United Way Dinner Reception Hour, Lost Creek Settlement Presentation, and the Frederick Douglass Unveiling.

There were a total of 7 inquiries with the Human Relations Office. Five dealing with housing, one dealing with public accommodation, and one other. There were no active cases.

Director AT is also working with the City Planner in regards to a Keep Terre Haute Beautiful Grant.

Commissioners also received a copy of the Financial Report. The recent purchases included: \$22.32 for public notices in the Tribune Star, commissioner name badges (\$33.75), advisory member name badges (\$22.50), Padfolios (\$500.00), dues for ADA (\$25), and annual Canva plan (\$119.99).

Motion to approve the combined Director's Report and Financial Report was made by Uzziah Hutchinson and seconded by Dana Simon.

Old Business

City Council Resolution - All members received a copy from Director AT which included a copy of the statement she gave before the council. The vote was 4-4 so the resolution did not pass. No action is needed.

Listening Session Collaboration - Terre Haute 10 and Human Relations Commission will host a 3 part listening session at Booker T. Washington Center Gym. The community will be divided into four groups: housing, employment, education, and criminal justice. The three parts will consist of: Listening and learning, Strategies and Actions, and Implementation. The dates will be February 29, March 21, and April 18 from 6 PM to 8PM.

Strategic Planning - The commission will have to advertise the strategic planning session as a special meeting. It was decided that the group would meet Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM at Sarah Scott Middle School. A facilitator would be decided at a later time.

Black History Month Social Media Campaign - During the month of February the City of Terre Haute posted weekly on social media platforms about local Black leaders/influencers. It was well received.

TableScapes - The Human Relations Commission will be decorating a table for TableScapes to help promote the commission to the public.

New Business

Black History Month Banner Process Proposal - The commission received a copy of Director AT's recommendation for the commission to establish a Black History Month Sub-Committee. This committee will be composed of three human relations commissioners and two community members. This sub-committee will be responsible for creating an application to solicit members from the community. The applicants will be reviewed by the entire body of the Human Relations Commission, and selected based on submitted applications. This sub-committee will need to meet at least four times annually. Nichelle Campbell-Miller, Katie Lugar, and Uziah Hutchinson all volunteered to be on the sub-committee. The commission approved this by common consent.

Vigo County Schools Diversity Writing Contest - The commission has been invited to participate in the VCSC's Annual Second Grade Diversity Writing Contest. The writing contest originated as a collaboration between the two entities, but due to inconsistencies in the HRC Directors role, VCSC assumed full responsibility. Director AT suggested that the commission gets involved earlier next year so we can build a better relationship. The contest winners will be displayed in City Hall. A motion was made by Nichelle Campbell-Miller and seconded by Dana Simons.

Women's History Month - During the month of March, the City of Terre Haute will celebrate Women's History Month by highlighting women who serve and keep our city running every day. This will be done by posting weekly on the city's social media platforms. This campaign will also bring attention to jobs the city has open.

Human Rights Day - ISU will be hosting their annual Human Rights Day on the 6th of March from 9AM to 3 PM.

Statements From Commissioners

Sandy Multcher brought it to the HRC attention that the downtown holiday decorations need to be updated. Either being more inclusive to all holiday celebrations, or having seasonal themed decorations.

Katie Lugar invited the commission to attend ISU's Women's History Month kick-off on March 5th.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Minutes submitted by Uzziah Hutchinson, Secretary.