

CITY OF TERRE HAUTE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Minutes: March 20, 2024

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

Absent: Emmitt Tyler, and Jeff Trotter.

The meeting was called to order at 5:29 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.

Guest Presentation

Councilperson AJ Dinkle - Terre Haute City Council - Councilperson Dinkle shared how the Human Relations Commissioners are appointed. The city council appoints three commissioners and the mayor appoints four commissioners. He then explained that no applicants met the requirements due to party affiliations. He shared that the council had a concern with the party affiliation requirement because it could force the council to appoint a less qualified candidate to the commission. Councilman Dinkle asked the commission's thoughts on amending the party affiliation requirement in the city code. It was discussed but no action was taken.

Chief Kevin Barrett THPD - Chief Barrett introduced himself to the Human Relations Commission and emphasized his appreciation to the work of the commission. He also shared some of the changes that have been taking place in the THPD. The department has a community alliance program, coffee with the chiefs, and officers walking the neighborhoods. Chief Barrett stated he would like to see more community involvement, and He wants the department to be more accessible and diverse.

Director's Report

All members received a copy of the directors report and financial report.

Director AT met with various community members and city officials. Director AT also attended many meetings and events, some including: THS Black History Program, Homeless Coalition Meetings, city council meetings, and many more.

There were three inquiries with the office, one for housing and two other calls. There are no active cases.

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Director Ryan submitted an application with the city planner for a \$20,000 Keep Terre Haute Beautiful Grant.

The office expenses included \$11.35 for public notices, \$192.50 for Recognition Plus, \$174.39 for acrylic holders, and \$437.48 for office supplies.

The Director's Report and Financial Report were accepted by common consent.

Old Business

Black History Month - All commissioners received a copy of this report. Director AT shared the social media analytics. No action needed.

Human Rights Day - Marcus Steiner was invited to attend a HR Commission meeting to talk about his Human Rights Works and discuss the potential collaboration on educational initiatives in the future. In previous years, the commission has been a financial sponsor for the event at ISU, and we will revisit this next year. No action needed.

Tablescapes - The Human Relations Commission had a table that was "Celebrating 60 Years of the Civil Rights Act of 1964". The table won the award for "Best Theme". No action needed.

Vigo County Schools Diversity Writing Contest - Director AT Ryan traveled around to all 15 elementary schools to present awards to 2nd grade winners of the diversity writing contest. All of the winning essays have been displayed in the glass cases in the City Hall Lobby. No action needed.

Community Engagement Workshop Series - Director AT presented each commissioner with a detailed packet of notes on the first community listening session. At the next session commissioners would serve as group facilitators to help keep groups on topic and on time. No action needed.

Strategic Planning - The Strategic Plan Retreat will be on Saturday, March 23 from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM at Sarah Scott Middle School. At this meeting, the strategic planning group will analyze the compiled data to build the 3-year strategic plan for the commission. No action needed.

New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 PM.

Minutes submitted by Uziah Hutchinson, Secretary.