



Human Relations Commission Regular Minutes
109 E. OLIVE STREET. Bloomington, IL
Council Chambers
WEDNESDAY, September 12, 2018 at 5:00 P.M.

- I. Call to Order – 5:03 pm**
- II. Roll Call of Attendance:** Commissioner Kiran Konam, Commissioner Anthony Jones, Commissioner Gary McGinnis, Commissioner Rhonda Smith, HR Staff Liaison Michael Hurt.
Absent – Commissioner Cotinna Harris, Commissioner Suresh Krishna
- III. Public Comment** – No Public Comment
- IV. Approval of Minutes:**
 - a.** Consideration of approving the minutes of the Human Relations Commission Regular Meetings on Wednesday, August 8, 2018.

Motion to approve – Commissioner Konam motioned to approve minutes of the Human Relations Commission Regular Meeting of Wednesday August 8, 2018. Seconded by Commissioner McGinnis. All yeas. The motion carries.
- V. Agenda Items:**
 1. Discussion of items to submit to City Council as HRC accomplishments for 2018-2019. Items to submit include: 1.) Community Organization Open House 2).New online complaint form 3) New Human Relations Commission Brochure 4). Community perception survey 5). Outreach Efforts with: Participation in Culture Festival, Youth Forum, and City of Bloomington Diversity Enhancement Group.

Commissioner Smith suggested that the Commission also include the impact of each accomplishment detailing the benefit of the accomplishment in the report to the City Council.

2. Development of a plan for the 2019 MLK Event.

The Town of Normal’s Human Relations Commission needed approval from the City Council before they could participate in the 2019 MLK Event. Ultimately, they were told they could not partner with the City of Bloomington in the way they had partnered in the past. Bloomington is to move forward without the participation of Normal. The MLK Event will no longer be a joint venture with the Town of Normal utilizing the funds available to the Commission. They have plans to partner with ISU on their King Day Celebration. Tony proposed get started early in soliciting nominees for the MLK awards presentation. At the latest, this should begin in late September. Set it up on the website and have a media release for the 2019 MLK awards for the City of Bloomington. Smith and Tony agreed to move the date to early communication. Smith asked if Nora would be able to help us get the word out that only Bloomington residents will be eligible for the awards. Tony wanted to reach out to Normal to ask them if they had an interest

in nominating their residents for an award. Commission Kiran thought this suggestion might cause confusion since it has been announced that Normal is not participating on the MLK event with Bloomington.

Consideration of a new MLK award for presentation to an organization or a business that would recognize their contribution to the dream of MLK, by fighting discrimination and promoting diversity. Commissioner Jones stated that the Commission would select the business or organization and determine if it met the criteria for the award. Commissioner Smith worried that the award may be short lived if the Commission failed to identify enough deserving organizations. Staff Liaison will research to find out if there is an ordinance that limits our awards to Bloomington residents only.

Commissioner McGinnis talked about the advantages of partnering with and expanding our outreach to other communities beyond Bloomington. Further discussion with Mayor, City Manager and Nicole Albertson may be necessary.

During a meeting held with the Mayor, City Manager, HR Staff, Commissioners Smith and Jones, some names were put forth as potential keynote speakers: Bob Moore-US Marshall, Joe Grawey, Rev. Courtney Carson from Decatur, Michael Nutter-former mayor of Philadelphia. Suggestions for keynote speakers will be sent to Commissioner Smith by next Wednesday. When considering keynote speakers, please be cognizant of our operating budget for the event.

Communication Plan: Send a press release that announces the changes in the process of the MLK Event, i.e., Normal HRC no longer partnering with the Bloomington HRC on the MLK event, the limitations on the award nominations. Mayor, City Manager, HR Director, HR Liaison must address who can be the recipient of an MLK Award. Is it only residents of Bloomington?

Commissioner Jones asked if the HR Staff would be available to put together an ad book for the event. Staff Liaison stated that HR did not have the capacity to construct the ad book. Commissioner Smith wanted to continue the discussion with Staff Liaison, and HR Director to discuss the City's participation in the cost and creation of the ad book. If the City employees were not able to assist in assembling the ad book, would the City be willing to shoulder the cost of hiring the work out.

The Town of Normal agreed to waive the parking fees for the lot near the Marriot for attendees of the MLK Event.

Reach out to the smaller towns/communities throughout the county to see if they want to join us in the MLK event, as attendees and eventually as partners.

2. Old Business

Survey-number of responses lower than last year. Use social media to conduct surveys in order to get more feedback from the community. Members of the Commission who are on Facebook can ask their friends to complete the community perception survey.

3. New Business

Local chapter of NAACP will be celebrating 100th anniversary on October 12, 2018. They are asking our support on tickets and ad book solicitation. Commissioner Jones suggested buying two ads. 1). Save the date for the MLK event 2). Ad stating our mission and the online complaint form, with a link to the community perception survey.

Commissioner McGinnis made a motion to approve the purchase of a full-page black & white ad for NAACP ad book that includes the MLK Save the Date, and general HRC information. Seconded by Commissioner Koran. All in favor. Motion passed.

4. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: October 10, 2018 at 5pm

Commissioner Koran made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner McGinnis.

5. Adjournment – 5:55 pm