



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION REGULAR MINUTES

109 E. OLIVE STREET. Bloomington, IL

CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2019 at 5:00 P.M.

I. Call to Order Roll Call of Attendance: 5:05

Present: Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Ajayi, Commissioner McGinnis, Commissioners Konam, Commissioner Krishna, Commissioner West

II. Public Comment

Janessa Williams, Chairperson for Town of Normal, Human Relations Commission, addressed the Commission to clear up any confusion regarding Normal's participation in the MLK event. Normal is definitely interested in continuing the partnership between the two Commissions. Ms. Williams stated that she is hopeful that the joint collaboration between normal and Bloomington will continue. For the benefit of the new Commissioners, Commissioner Jones summarized the events that occurred between the two Human Relations Commissions as it related to the 2019 MLK Event.

III. Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Ajayi moved to approve the minutes of July 10, 2109. Commissioner McGinnis seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

IV. Agenda Items

- a. *Vote to approve Conciliation Agreement for employment complaint*
Commissioner Smith polled the Commissioners on approval of the Conciliation Agreement. All ayes. Approved
- b. *Review new employment complaint-*
Staff Liaison asked that the Commissioners to dismiss Complaint # 2019-003. Complainant was terminated for insubordination. She admitted that she received written disciplinary action for arguing with her supervisor and refusing to follow his instructions. She alleges that she was terminated because of pregnancy. However she was not pregnant at the time of her termination. Complainant was terminated for cause therefore there is no basis for her allegation.

V. Old Business

a. Suggestions for speakers for the MLK Event

Commissioner Jones recommends Mr. Aaron Vessup as speaker for the 2020 MLK Event. Mr. Vessup was the first person hired as the City of Bloomington Human Relations Commission Specialist.

Commissioner McGinnis asked if it would be appropriate to meet with the Town of Normal sometime in the near future to allow them input into the choice of speaker. Commissioner Smith asked the Commissioners if they had any knowledge of the proposed speaker, or done any research on him. Commissioner Ajayi had reviewed some of the writings of Mr. Vessup and deemed him an appropriate speaker for the MLK event.

b. MLK program short term planning details

Commissioner Jones related the critical timeline for securing the venue. There are currently 2 venue options, The Doubletree Hotel and the Park Hotel.

Commissioner Jones has prepared a spreadsheet that compared the costs of the 2 proposed venues. Commissioner Suresh asked that Commissioner Jones provide the Commissioners with copies of the spreadsheet, so they could review it before the September meeting.

VI. New Business

a. Commission budget update

The line item for the MLK Event has a balance of \$27,000. The line item for Community Relations has a balance of \$3,710.

Commissioner Ajayi expressed his hope, and the expectation of community members that the work of the Commission would be expanded beyond the planning of the MLK Event. He proposed that the Commission could make a difference in the community by creating a certification program for women, minority and disadvantaged business enterprises hoping to work on City funded projects. Commissioner Ajayi had previously shared with the Commission similar programs currently operating in Champaign and Peoria. He further proposes a sub-committee of the Commission to work with him specifically on this initiative to create language for the program that would eventually be presented to the City Council for approval.

VII. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: September 11, 2019

VIII. Adjournment:

Commissioner Jones motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Krishna. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:42.

