



**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES  
109 E. OLIVE STREET. Bloomington, IL  
City Hall – Council Chambers and Conference Room  
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.**

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

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

Absent: Commissioner West

**II. Public Comment-None**

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

- a. Consideration of approving the minutes of the Human Relations Commission Meeting of Wednesday December 11, 2019.

Motion to approve: Commissioner Ajayi

Seconded: Commissioner Jones All in favor. Ayes have it. Motion passes.

**IV. Agenda Items**

- a. MLK Luncheon finalizations:

Commissioner Jones solicited volunteers to man the ticket table at the MLK luncheon. Commissioner McGinnis volunteered. The head count for the luncheon is currently at 250. Past luncheons have hosted as many as 500 attendees.

A formal head count must be provided to the venue by Friday. There is some wiggle room if ticket sales increase. Very few tickets were purchased through City Hall. Commissioner Jones explained the room setup for the luncheon. There will be a large chart indicating attendees table numbers, so if there are no volunteer escorts, the attendees will have no problem finding their tables. He will create a final report and spreadsheet containing the details of the MLK Luncheon. The website for tickets sales is currently to come down on Friday. Commissioner Jones will check with ISU to see how many additional attendees they can accommodate, then Commissioner Jones will determine if the website should stay active longer than Friday.

Chairwoman Smith contacted the chairperson of the Normal HRC regarding ticket sales, and to remind him that ticket sales are wrapping up. There was no response to her email. She was informed by Commissioner Jones that Normal's level of support for the luncheon was limited to encouraging the general public to attend

and direct them to the website. They purchased 2 tables for the TON, but they did not otherwise actively engage in ticket sales.

b. Review Pantagraph agreement

When the Pantagraph received the press release regarding the luncheon, they immediately responded saying the slated emcee Michelle Pazar was no longer a Pantagraph employee and had not been for a several months and from the press release the reader could assume that the emcee was a Pantagraph employee. Additionally, the Pantagraph management was not aware of any agreements between former Publisher Michelle Pazar and the BHRC. The Pantagraph General Manager, for auditing purposes, insisted on a written agreement stating the services that the Pantagraph would provide in exchange for tickets to the luncheon, and that the written agreement be signed by both the Pantagraph and the BHRC.

Commissioner Krishna stated that there was no agreement that the emcee had to be a Pantagraph employee, so he proceeded with securing Michelle Pazar as the emcee. However, other Commissioners, following Commissioner Krishna's earlier presentation, assumed that a Pantagraph employee as the emcee, the print and digital advertising, and comp tickets were a package deal. The Commissioners appreciated the work put in by Commissioner Krishna, they emphasized that future communication regarding the MLK event must be communicated to all Commissioners, and not be a private understanding with anyone less than the full Commission.

The Pantagraph agreement was approved by unanimous vote via email prior to this meeting.

**V. Old Business**

a. Update on Fact-finding conference

Staff Liaison informed Commission that fact-finding conference is scheduled for January 16, 2020.

**VI. New Business**

a. Commissioner Ajayi will review the Peoria and Champaign ordinances. He will summarize the BHRC discussions referencing the proposed ordinance, commit them to writing and provide Staff Liaison with this information. Staff will then arrange the information in an official format to be reviewed and edited by the Commission before it is presented to the City.

b. Human Resource Director Albertson informed the Commission that the City Administration is moving forward with filling the position. The position has not yet been posted but posting is expected to take place within a week.

- c. Fair Housing training. The coordinator has been informed of the Commission's interest in participating in the Fair Housing Training. It is a work in progress and the coordinator will inform staff liaison of details.
- d. Work needs to be done on the process for MLK nominations. The language of nomination form needs to be more specific and less subjective so that nominations can be judged according to a standard.
- e. Work also needs to be done on our website to make it more current and relevant. It would be advantageous if viewers were able to see a count of the number of complaints and the type of complaints that have been filed and acted on. This will assist the community in understanding some of the work of the Commission. Chairperson Smith solicited ideas from the Commissioners on ways to elevate the awareness of the Commission in the City and inform them of the resources available through the Human Relations Commission.
- f. Create process for reviewing funding requests from the Community ensuring that the requester's mission aligns with the purpose of the Commission.
- g. Commissioner Ajayi pointed out that the Ordinance makes provision for a Vice-Chairperson. He recommended filling that role so that there is a clear line of succession in the absence of the Chairperson.

**VII. Next Scheduled Meeting Date:** February 12, 2020

**VIII. Adjournment:** 5:55 pm

Motion to adjourn: Commissioner Ajayi  
Seconded by: Commissioner McGinnis  
All in favor. Ayes have it.