



CITY OF WHEELING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

1500 Chapline Street, Room 305
Wheeling, WV 26003

COMMISSIONERS

Bryant Anderson

Frank Calabrese

Rev. Ralph W. Dunkin

Elisa Hickman

David Miller

Loma Nevels

Emily L. Ward

Wheeling Human Rights Commission

Regular meeting of the Wheeling Human Rights Commission: May 17, 2022.

Commissioners present: Anderson, Calabrese, Dunkin and Miller.

Commissioners absent: Hickman, Nevels and Ward.

City of Wheeling Staff present: Thompson.

CALL TO ORDER

A roll call was held. With a quorum present, the business meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chairman Dunkin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular meeting: April 19, 2022. The minutes had been previously emailed. Commissioner Miller motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

SWPALS 2022 Education and Outreach Project The 2022 Agreement with the Fair Housing Law Center at Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services began on April 1, 2022 and runs through March 31, 2023. The HRC is committed to 35 hours of Education and Outreach under the 2022 Agreement. Ms. Thompson reported that the HRC has achieved 3.5 hours, and has a balance of 31.5 hours. She asked that members continue to look for ways to achieve Fair Housing Education and Outreach hours, such as fairs and festivals in the upcoming season. Chairman Dunkin requested that Fairs and Festivals, as well as Promoting the HRC be placed on the June meeting agenda.

Second Annual Community Award for Someone Who Supports Human Rights Commissioner Calabrese motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss confidential nominees for the Annual Community Award. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion passed. Time: 12:06 p.m. Executive Session concluded at 12:13 p.m., with a motion by Commissioner Calabrese, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to return to the normal order of business. Chairman Dunkin announced that no decisions or votes were made during Executive Session, and that one nominee was determined to be qualified for the award. Commissioner Miller motioned to confidentially recommend Nominee Number 1 to the City Clerk and the Mayor for an award during the 2022 State of the City Address. Commissioner Calabrese seconded the motion and it passed.

The Crown Act, and Resolution on Conversion Therapy Ms. Thompson provided copies of the Amended HRC Ordinance, passed by City Council on May 3, 2022, reflecting changes regarding Conversion Therapy. Chairman Dunkin stated that City Solicitor Rosemary Humway-Warmuth has tentatively agreed to attend the June meeting to legally advise the HRC regarding these changes. He further stated that he did not know when the Council will move forward with the Crown Act. There was a brief discussion about Conversion Therapy.

HRC Support for Inclusion Coordinator Commissioner Dunkin reinforced that the HRC still supports the creation of this potential City position.

Future Meetings Discussion Chairman Dunkin stated that it was decided one week in advance to hold the May meeting in person. He asked the Commissioners present what they wished to do about future meetings. The consensus was to meet in person for future meetings unless the COVID situation dictates differently.

Commissioner Vacancies Chairman Dunkin indicated that there are currently two vacancies on the HRC, plus three Commissioners' terms are ending on June 30, 2022. Commissioners Nevels and Ward have indicated that they wish to be reappointed, while Commissioner Calabrese has indicated that he wishes to devote time to running his foundation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Citizen Inquiry/Complaint Activity Log through May 13, 2022 Chairman Dunkin reviewed the confidential Activity Log, previously emailed by Ms. Thompson. No new complaints had been received.

OTHER ISSUES REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS:

Commissioner Calabrese stated that if the Inclusion Coordinator job is created, that the new hire should be invited to the HRC meetings. Chairman Dunkin reminded that the Homeless Liaison is also invited to the HRC meetings.

No other issues regarding human rights were discussed.

THOSE WISHING TO BE HEARD:

There was no one wishing to be heard.

REMARKS FROM MEMBERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:

Commissioner Anderson stated that he was happy to be back out amongst everyone after meeting virtually.

Commissioner Calabrese stated that we have dutifully responded to all that has been asked of us to date, and that he wishes that he could have gone out and found things to expand the activity of the HRC.

Chairman Dunkin stated that he sent a thank you to Braden Beckett, the student at Linsly that brought the Conversion Therapy issue to the City. Mr. Beckett needed excused from school to attend city council, and Chairman Dunkin recommended that he should receive extra credit. There was discussion that Mr. Beckett could not be a recipient of the Annual Award to someone who supports human rights, due to not being a resident of the City of Wheeling. Chairman Dunkin offered to write an official Letter of Commendation from the HRC to Mr. Beckett.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Commissioner Calabrese made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:48p.m., seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ralph Dunkin
Chairperson

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