



CITY OF WHEELING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

1500 Chapline Street, Room 305
Wheeling, WV 26003

COMMISSIONERS

Bryant A. Anderson

Vincent DeGeorge

Rev. Ralph W. Dunkin

Elissa Gross

Elisa M. Hickman

Rabbi Joshua Lief

David Miller

Loma Nevels

Emily L. Ward

Wheeling Human Rights Commission

Regular meeting of the Wheeling Human Rights Commission: August 16, 2022.

Commissioners present: DeGeorge, Dunkin, Gross, Lief, Miller and Ward.

Commissioners absent: Anderson, Hickman and Nevels.

City of Wheeling Staff present: Humway-Warmuth, Prager and Thompson.

CALL TO ORDER:

A roll call was held. With a quorum present, the business meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Chairman Dunkin.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR OPINION OF COUNSEL: COMPLAINT PROCEDURE DISCUSSION

Chairman Dunkin stated that Solicitor Humway-Warmuth has requested to address the HRC first due to another work commitment. Commissioner Lief motioned, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to suspend the regular order of business, to go out of order and enter into Executive Session. Motion passed. Time: 10:04 a.m. Executive Session was concluded at 10:35 a.m. with a motion by Commissioner DeGeorge, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to continue with regular business. Motion passed. Chairman Dunkin announced that Executive Session was informational and no decisions or votes were made. City Solicitor Humway-Warmuth requested to be excused, which was granted by the Chairman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular meeting: July 19, 2022. The minutes had been previously emailed. Commissioner Miller motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ward. 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 Agreement. Ms. Thompson stated that the HRC's achievement is now at 28.5 hours, after three new Commissioners attended a Fair Housing training, and we collectively spent 16 hours at the Celebrate Youth Festival. The new balance to achieve is 6.5 hours.

Second Annual Community Award for Someone Who Supports Human Rights Chairman Dunkin reported that although he had communicated the HRC's recommendation to the Mayor, the Mayor chose not to go with the HRC's recommendation. However, the Mayor did award Commissioner Nevels. Chairman Dunkin confirmed that the Mayor would like for the HRC to continue making nominations, even though he may choose not to accept them. Members were asked to continue thinking of new nominees, but will wait until January 2023 to begin discussing a recommendation.

The Crown Act Chairman Dunkin reported that the Mayor is looking for good timing to revisit the CROWN Act Resolution, possibly later this year. He requested that Commissioners seek out young African American individuals who wear their hair in natural fashion, who would be interested in going before Council in support of this issue.

2022 Upcoming Events, Fairs and Festivals: YSS Celebrate Youth Festival, August 4, 2022, 9am-4pm Ms. Thompson reported that three commissioners volunteered their time to assist at the festival, and Chairman Dunkin stated that the 500 distributed stylus pen/highlighters were a hot item.

Commissioner Gross announced that the NAACP's Freedom Fund Banquet would be held on September 24, 2022, which may be an opportunity to promote the HRC.

Ms. Thompson was requested to look into whether a Veterans Stand Down is scheduled to be held in 2022.

Officer Elections Ms. Thompson was asked to clarify the offices and terms. She indicated that Chairman Dunkin is the current Chair, and Commissioner Nevels is the current Vice Chair. Each have served a one-year term, and each is permitted to serve up to two consecutive one-year terms in their respective positions. Both have indicated that they are willing to be re-elected. There was discussion. Commissioner Gross nominated Commissioner Dunkin as Chairman and Commissioner Lief as Vice Chairman. With further discussion, and no other nominations, a motion to close the nominations was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Ward. Commissioner DeGeorge made a motion of acclamation to accept the nominations and elect the slate as presented, seconded by Commissioner Ward. The motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Citizen Inquiry/Complaint Activity Log through August 12, 2022 Chairman Dunkin acknowledged the confidential Activity Log, and that there were no new complaints received. The fact that staff makes referrals was briefly discussed.

OTHER ISSUES REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS:

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:

There were no further remarks.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Commissioner Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Ward. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ralph Dunkin
Chairperson

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