



# CITY OF WHEELING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

1500 Chapline Street, Room 305  
Wheeling, WV 26003

## Wheeling Human Rights Commission

Regular meeting of the Wheeling Human Rights Commission: July 17, 2018.

Commissioners present: Bell, Calabrese, Dunkin, Gupta, Kangisser, Nevels, and Novotney.

Commissioners absent: Blalock and Sunseri.

City of Wheeling Staff present: Prager and Thompson.

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular meeting: June 19, 2018. The minutes had been previously emailed. Commissioner Novotney motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Bell. The motion passed.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**Educational Forum Possible with WJU – International Declaration of Human Rights** Chairman Dunkin asked Commissioner Calabrese for an update. Commissioner Calabrese stated that WJU has six members on board doing internal planning, and that the event will be held after the students return in the fall. There will be a question and answer session following the forum.

**SWPALS 2018 Education and Outreach Project** Ms. Thompson reported that the HRC has committed to achieving 33.75 hours of education and outreach. As of the last meeting, the balance was 17 hours. Since the last meeting, the HRC met 6.75 hours through attendance by Ms. Thompson and Commissioners Kangisser, Dunkin and Calabrese at the Landlord training co-hosted by the HRC on June 28. The new balance is 10.25 hours. Additional hours will be achieved through the Celebrate Youth Festival on August 2, and the Veterans Stand Down on October 10.

**Discussion – A Public Forum about Human Rights for Women** Chairman Dunkin expressed that the forum will be on September 10 from 7:00-8:30pm at WVNCC, and hosted by Commissioner Novotney. The forum will be much broader than originally intended, including “Hers, His and Ours” human rights. Four speakers are lined up for the forum, each who will have 15 minutes to speak, including Lori Jones, Bob Gaudio, Loma Nevels and Lisa Allen. A meeting to further discuss the event was scheduled immediately following this regular meeting.

**Celebrate Youth – August 2, 2018 at Wheeling Park** Chairman Dunkin stated that the Youth Services Systems’ free Celebrate Youth festival is on Thursday, August 2 from 10am to 4pm at Wheeling Park. The HRC will have a table at the event. Ms. Thompson will be there all day. Commissioners Nevels, Kangisser, Bell and Dunkin agreed to assist.

**Veteran’s Stand Down – October 10, 2018** Chairman Dunkin asked Commissioner Novotney to update, and he reminded that the Veterans Stand down is upcoming on October 10 from 10am to 3pm at WVNCC. The committee is trying to expand the reach to veterans in Hancock County. The HRC is registered to participate. Commissioners Nevels and Kangisser offered to assist.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Election of Officers** Chairman Dunkin stated that he is no longer eligible to be Chair, having served two consecutive years, and reminded that last month there were two nominees for Chair: Steve Novotney and Frank Calabrese. He asked for additional nominees. With no additional nominees, Commissioner Kangisser made a motion to close the nominations and

## COMMISSIONERS

Diana Bell, LSW

Joseph R. Blalock

Frank Calabrese

Rev. Ralph W. Dunkin

Rita Gupta

Karen Kangisser

Loma Nevels

Steve Novotney

Anthony Sunseri

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Commissioner Nevels seconded. The motion carried. Commissioner Calabrese took a moment to explain his history of commitment to human rights. Chairman Dunkin thanked him and asked if Commissioner Novotney would like equal time, to which he declined. Ballots were circulated for the election. After voting was completed, Commissioner Kangisser was asked to count the votes. Chairman Dunkin announced that Commissioner Novotney was elected to Chairman, and he will preside over the next meeting.

For the purpose of Vice Chair, Commissioner Bell nominated Commissioner Calabrese, and Commissioner Novotney nominated Commissioner Nevels. Commissioner Calabrese declined the nomination and deferred to Commissioner Nevels. Commissioner Bell made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Commissioner Kangisser. After a vote, Commissioner Nevels was unanimously elected to Vice Chair.

Chairman Dunkin reminded that the Chair and Vice Chair positions are for a one-year term.

**Citizen Inquiry/Complaint Activity Log through July 13, 2018** Ms. Thompson reported that one housing complaint and one employment complaint had been sent out since the last meeting. There has been progress on the active Housing complaint, in which a No Probable Cause was mailed to all parties. On the active Public Accommodations complaint, a meeting had occurred with the complainant and now one has been scheduled with the respondent.

**THOSE WISHING TO BE HEARD:**

There was no one who wished to be heard.

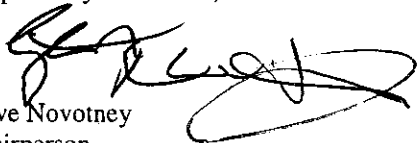
**REMARKS FROM MEMBERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:**

There were no further comments from the HRC.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business Commissioner Novotney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steve Novotney  
Chairperson

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