



CITY OF WHEELING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

1500 Chapline Street, Room 305
Wheeling, WV 26003

COMMISSIONERS

Diana Bell, LSW

Joseph R. Blalock

Frank Calabrese

Rev. Ralph W. Dunkin

Karen Kangisser

Rosemary Ketchum

Loma Nevels

Anthony Sunseri

Wheeling Human Rights Commission

Regular meeting of the Wheeling Human Rights Commission, September 17, 2019.

Commissioners present: Blalock, Calabrese, Dunkin, Kangisser, Ketchum, Nevels and Sunseri.

Commissioners absent: Bell.

City of Wheeling Staff present: Prager and Thompson.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular meeting: August 20, 2019. The minutes had been previously emailed. Commissioner Kangisser motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Dunkin. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Federal Government's Creation of the Commission on Unalienable Rights Chairman Calabrese stated that he had no update and asked for comments. No one present had any new information.

SWPALS 2019 Education and Outreach Project Ms. Thompson reported that the HRC has committed to achieving 31 hours of education and outreach. The HRC has met 15.13 of these hours between the Celebrate Youth Festival and the August and September monthly conference calls, so the new balance is 15.87 hours to achieve. Additional hours may be achieved at the Veterans Stand Down.

Veterans Stand Down – October 9, 2019 at WVNCC from 10:00am-3:00pm Ms. Thompson reported that the HRC is registered and scheduled to exhibit at the Veterans Stand Down, and Commissioner Nevels will join her from 11:00-1:00.

Ideas for Promoting the HRC Chairman Calabrese stated that he hoped the HRC could continue to get out into the community, and asked for any new ideas. Commissioner Dunkin urged all the Commissioners to go to the In Wheeling Magazine website before September 23 and talk about their volunteerism, in particular for the HRC, for the next issue of the magazine. He offered to send a link via email. Chairman Calabrese thanked Commissioner Dunkin.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request by Filmmaker Emily Harger for the HRC to Co-Sponsor a Local Screening of the Documentary "Outspoken" about the LGBT Community Commissioner Ketchum referred to a flyer and spoke about this request as related to the failed non-discrimination ordinance in Parkersburg, WV. She asked if the HRC may be willing to co-sponsor a showing of the documentary film "Outspoken" in Wheeling, along with the ACLU. She suggested that the sponsorship of the film would be \$200, and separately, the sponsorship of a speaker regarding renters' rights would be \$400. There may be opportunities to have this film shown in Wheeling as soon as November or December. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunkin that the HRC host the film, with the provision that it is viewed first by or on behalf of the HRC, seconded by Commissioner Blalock. The motion carried. An additional motion was made by Commissioner Dunkin that the HRC covers the \$200 sponsorship of the film, seconded by Commissioner Blalock. The motion carried.

Annual Report for Period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 Ms. Thompson reported that staff is working on the HRC's Annual Report which is due to the Administration and City Council by December 1. Typically, the first priority is to complete the City's CDBG annual report which is due to HUD by September 30. She detailed for the HRC many of the

achievements that have already been compiled and included within the CDBG annual report. Chairman Calabrese thanked Ms. Thompson for this summary.

Citizen Inquiry/Complaint Activity Log through September 13, 2019 Ms. Thompson provided the confidential report. There was one Employment complaint form and one Public Accommodations form issued since the August meeting, along with several referrals to outside agencies. There remains one active Public Accommodations complaint under investigation, while another Public Accommodations complaint was received in the office on September 3, and it is still under review by the City Solicitor.

THOSE WISHING TO BE HEARD:

There was no one wishing to be heard.

REMARKS FROM MEMBERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:

Commissioner Ketchum announced that the ACLU was hosting a Constitution Trivia event on September 17 at 7:00pm at Tacoholix in Wheeling, and that the winners will receive a free membership to the ACLU.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business Commissioner Dunkin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:59am, seconded by Commissioner Nevels.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank Calabrese
Chairperson

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