



CITY OF WHEELING

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

1500 Chapline Street, Room 305
Wheeling, WV 26003

6/4

COMMISSIONERS

Joseph R. Blalock
Frank Calabrese
Rev. Ralph W. Dunkin
Karen Kangisser
Rosemary Ketchum
Loma Nevels
Anthony Sunseri
Emily L. Ward

Wheeling Human Rights Commission

Regular meeting of the Wheeling Human Rights Commission, November 19, 2019.

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

Commissioners absent: Sunseri.

City of Wheeling Staff present: Prager and Thompson.

SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBER:

City Clerk Brenda Delbert administered the Oath of Office to new appointee Emily Ward. Chairman Calabrese congratulated Commissioner Ward, and asked for a photograph to be taken after the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, the business meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Calabrese.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular meeting: September 17, 2019. The minutes had been previously emailed. Commissioner Dunkin motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Kangisser. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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 now met a total of 27.88 of these hours, with attending the Veterans Stand Down, the Northern Panhandle Continuum of Care, and the October and November monthly conference calls. The new balance of hours to achieve is 3.12 hours to achieve. SWPALS has agreed to conduct a Fair Housing Training for Wheeling landlords in the spring, possibly during Fair Housing Month (April).

Veterans Stand Down – October 9, 2019 at WVNCC from 10:00am-3:00pm Ms. Thompson reported that she and Commissioner Nevels represented the HRC at the Veterans Stand Down, where 64 veterans were reported to have attended. Ten individuals signed the sign-in sheet, allowing the event to count under the SWPALS Agreement.

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 handouts and reported that the HRC is all set to host the documentary at WVNCC on Monday, December 2, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. The event will be promoted to the news media, on the City’s social media, at the library, and at WVNCC. A panel discussion is tentatively planned after the showing of the film. A motion was made by Commissioner Dunkin to confirm the HRC’s consensus previously achieved by an email poll, approving the modified cost of \$260.45, including processing fees, for the sponsorship/screening of the film. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kangisser. The motion carried.

Ideas for Promoting the HRC Chairman Calabrese stated that he would like to reach out to the media for a positive article. There have been five forums, and he would like to get the community’s ideas for additional events. Commissioner Dunkin noted that the HRC was mentioned in the In Wheeling magazine. There was discussion, and Commissioner Kangisser noted the difficulty in reaching the general population and getting them to show up at events. Chairman Calabrese offered to reach out and several members of the HRC agreed to help.

Phone: (304) 234-3609 * Fax (304) 234-3899 * TDD (304) 234-3609

E-Mail: hrc@wheelingwv.gov

Annual Report for Period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 Ms. Thompson reported that the HRC's Annual Report is due to the Administration and City Council by December 1, so the draft will be emailed to the HRC within the next few days, for feedback and submission by November 27, prior to the Thanksgiving holidays.

NEW BUSINESS:

Revisit the HRC's Regular Business Meeting Time Chairman Calabrese asked if any members wished to revisit the meeting time of 8:30am. Commissioner Dunkin made a motion that the meetings be held on the third Tuesday of the month at 8:30am for a minimum of a six-month period which began September 17, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ward. Motion carried.

Requested Agenda Item by Commissioner Kangisser to Offer an Annual Community Award to someone Who Supports the Work of the HRC Commissioner Kangisser suggested coming up with a format to select someone who promotes the mission of the HRC, such as an application or nomination form. Chairman Calabrese suggested picking a time to give the award and building around that, with nominations or applications. Commissioner Dunkin suggested that an ad hoc committee should work on this.

Citizen Inquiry/Complaint Activity Log through November 15, 2019 Ms. Thompson explained the confidential report which ran from September 16 to November 15.

THOSE WISHING TO BE HEARD:

There was no one wishing to be heard.

REMARKS FROM MEMBERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:

Chairman Calabrese suggested that a letter be sent to Diana Bell, thanking her for her 22 years of service to the HRC.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business Commissioner Dunkin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17am, seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Respectfully Submitted,



Frank Calabrese
Chairperson

mt