

**MEETING OF THE MONROE COUNTY
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 30, 2016 at 5:00 PM
Assessor's Meeting Room

1. Roll Call and Call to Order
 - a. With a Quorum Present the meeting was called to order.
 - b. Members present were: Sharon Ackerman, Byron Bangert, Birk Billingsley, Doris Parlette, and Kathleen Sideli.

2. Minutes were not typed yet, so they were not approved. Minutes will be approved in the January meeting

3. Old Business
 - a. Vacancies and appointments were discussed, acknowledging that the Commissioners would make appointments in the next couple of months.

 - b. The Commission postponed any conversation about the Fair Labor Initiative until the beginning of the year when new members were appointed and could participate.

 - c. A reminder of the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. event was given and the HRC discussed the speaker (Adam Foss, a prosecutor with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office in Boston) who will share his vision for a better, more compassionate justice system. A discussion was held about whether the HRC should participate in conversations when it comes time for a new Prosecuting Attorney to run for office in Monroe County. It was suggested that a joint meeting of the City and County Human Rights Commissions could be held to discuss the candidates' positions on issues of interest to the Human Rights Commissions, if the Commissioners approved such a meeting.

4. New Business
 - a. It was mentioned that the City of Bloomington Human Rights Commission discussed, at their last meeting, whether the City might become a "sanctuary" for persons immigrating to the United States from war-torn countries. Indiana University's stance on this topic was

briefly discussed. This led to a more general discussion of organizations in Bloomington with an interest in facilitating peace and harmony, and it was noted that Monroe County is unique in that we have a statute on our Courthouse grounds dedicated to Peace. Byron gave the HRC some background information about the rededication of the Peace statute in Monroe County. It was acknowledged that the HRC has a more narrow focus than many of the groups interested in Peace and peaceful demonstrations.

- b. The Commission asked if any new complaints had been filed and was informed that no complaints had been received so far in 2016.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.