

tMonroe County Human Rights Commission  
Minutes  
Wednesday, January 27, 2021  
5:00 pm via Zoom

Attending:

Members: Kathy Sideli, President; Eric Sader; Doris Parlette, Vice President; Byron Bangert; Susan Gray, Secretary; Will Smith; Vauhxx Booker  
Staff: Margie Rice, County Attorney  
Visitor: Ruth Adyt

New Business:

1. Review of Chapter 216 - housekeeping provisions: Uniform provisions for county boards and commissions require annual disclosure forms for all members. Margie will mail/e-mail forms to each member to be filled out and returned. Also conflict of interest forms will be e-mailed/mailed to members to be returned Terms of appointment reviewed.
2. Election of officers: Policy states that officers will be elected at the first meeting of the year - President, Vice-President, Secretary. Byron moved that all officers continue to serve for 2021. Susan seconded. Discussion on whether offices should rotate on a regular basis. Policy does not require term limits. Kathy has been president for approx 4 years. Doris has been VP same length of time. Susan has been secretary for approx 6 months. Vauhxx wished to nominate Will for President. However Will states he has too many current commitments to take on the job. Eric and Vauhxx also state they have enough current commitments that they feel they cannot take on an officer's position this year. Kathy stated that she would like to see the Criminal Justice Study thru to completion, therefore she is willing to serve for 1 more year. Doris said the same. Susan is willing to remain as secretary if the commission members wish. Discussion: Is a position of Past President possible to provide continuity? Next year nominations information about leadership elections will be shared with members prior to the January meeting (reminding them of upcoming election of officers and including current information about years served to date by current officers. Members interested in serving as officers can then contact XXX (the president/Margie/staff??) Motion to retain Kathy, Doris, and Susan in present positions was passed by polling each member - 7 aye, 0 nay.
3. Boards and commissions need to write an annual report for County Commissioners. Due Jan. 31. Margie and Susan will prepare a report to be reviewed at Feb meeting and then submitted to Commissioners.
4. Exciting proposal presented at last Commissioners meeting by IUPUI professor on proposed research on prosecutors' roles in Indiana re racial justice and criminal disparity issues. Council looking at the proposal and plan to vote on funding at their next meeting in February. Ruth states this will not be just counting cases (as she and Guy Loftman did 2 years ago in Monroe County) but will also include pre-trial diversion cases. The data will come from a state wide system used by all prosecutors in Indiana. Vauhxx asked if non-white folks will be involved in the research project. Margie will ask the Prosecutor re this.

Old Business:

1. Criminal Justice Study update: 2 consultants have draft reports ready, one consultant is

still reaching out to determine community capacity. Final report should be available in early 2021. Then report will be shared with County Commissioners and Prosecutor

2. Partnership with Bloomington HRC. Collaboration agreement has been approved by both sides. Byron suggests a combined Zoom meeting after March 2021 to get acquainted. Discussion that most important issue is a combined intake form to report possible human rights violations. Possibly forming a sub-committee to discuss future collaboration tasks. Margie will contact Barb McKinney re setting up date for Zoom meeting between both HRCs.

3. Jail survey. Funding has been approved by Council. \$5000 will come from Public Safety money. Conversation still needed with Sheriff re accessing the Jail before adding to the Commissioners agenda.

4. Commissioners letter re adding Ellettsville and Stinesville to Monroe County HRC was sent. Darla Brown, Ellettsville attorney, said no interest at this time. Also no interest expressed from Stinesville. Discussion: Commissioners do not want to extend jurisdiction and “force” it on Ellettsville or Stinesville if those entities are not interested. Worry expressed that it will take a “major incident” in one of these towns before jurisdiction will be extended and that is a pity.

5. Revised draft of “Housing as a Human Right” resolution presented. Very minor revision of adding “housing status” and “veteran status” to 8<sup>th</sup> Whereas paragraph moved by Will and seconded by Byron. Approved. Discussion of meaning of “legal security of tenure” and “cultural adequacy”. “Cultural adequacy” may impinge on Planning and Zoning as regards to regulation about no more than 3 unrelated adults in a household if a polyamorous household is formed. Margie suggests that Dave Shilling, county attorney with Planning and Zoning, be consulted. MCHRC’s approval of Housing as a Human Right Resolution was moved by Byron and seconded by Doris with minor amendment as previously. Approved unanimously.

6. At last County Council working session, Stride Center presented some statistics on usage. Question on whether the stats included data on race. Moved by Vauhxx and seconded by Susan that we invite Stride Center to next MCHRC meeting.

7. Vauhxx asks that MCHRC members consider supporting the resolution to ban removal of camping from parks. This must be done as speaking only as individual – not as member of MCHRC.

Approval of December minutes moved by Doris and seconded by Vauhxx. Approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn at 6:30 pm made by Susan and seconded by Eric. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,