

Erie County Human Relations Commission

Minutes – April 18, 2017

Attendance

Commissioners: Bob Howden, Willie McAdory, Tracy Leet, and Amy Danzer

Staff: Joe Aguglia, and Wayne Harbison (Charlotte Scalise is sick)

Guests: Advisory Board Members Tony Logue, Diana Ames, Christine Mitchell, and George Bonilla.

Commission Members Not in Attendance

George Morgan, Connie Manus

Meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm

Approval of Minutes

Amy Danzer moved that the revised minutes from January and February be voted upon along with the March minutes. This was seconded by Bob Howden. They were approved unanimously.

Advisory Board

No chair or vice chair is present. There are eight members and only four are present so they cannot vote upon their minutes.

Directors Report

Joe Aguglia has summarized the results from the testing firm we had hired to do housing discrimination testing. He is trying to make it about two pages in length, easily readable and have a positive outlook to what we can do in the future. Because of the small numbers, more work will need to be done in the future, hopefully showing progress in reducing discrimination. It will also have the case log included. Joe Aguglia will share it when it is ready, hopefully by the end of the month. During the yearly oral report by the HRC director to County Council, Council encouraged the publication of all of this information.

The Housing Seminar is a week from today at the Blasco Library. There are continuing education credits available for lawyers and for social workers. Please send reservations to Charlotte Scalise.

The Employment Seminar is June 22 at the BelAire. It is believed that continuing education credits will also be available for this seminar. Please send reservations to Charlotte Scalise.

Act 137 funds are available for more testing which is already being done in the western county.

New Business

Although we requested \$10,000, we believe we will get \$8,000 in City of Erie CDBG funds for more commercials. These can be started after July 1, 2017. These have to be focused on housing.

County Act 137 funds are available for advertising in the county after May 1. Joe Bertis, the administrator of the funds for the county, would like to see funds being used for more testing. He is not very interested in having radio spots telling people of the services we provide. There were few calls that came from spots put on the one radio station. It was suggested that the weekly regional papers in

Albion, McKean, etc. may be a good way to advertise in the county. It is believed that the Times Publishing Company may own those regional papers. We can also put it into the Erie Reader.

We will have a table at the Veteran's Seminar on April 27 at Gannon.

Tony Logue said that there was a quorum at the last Advisory Board meeting at which the Human Trafficking committee was created. There was discussion about looking into all the ways that Human Trafficking takes place, usually of young people by older people, including not only sexual exploitation but also drug dealing and trafficking. Tony Logue hopes to coordinate with the Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Network which is also working on this issue. It was acknowledged that although there could not be hearings held on this, the Advisory Board can certainly look into shining light on and raising awareness of this subject.

Old Business

The new officers for the Commission were reviewed following the election last month. Bob Howden is Chair, Connie Manus is Vice-Chair and Amy Danzer is Secretary.

The proposed ordinance revisions completed in January were sent to Doug Smith. We don't know when they will be voted upon by County Council. We believe it will be at the meeting to be held two weeks from today.

Charlotte Scalise should have the final revisions to the brochure at next month's meetings.

The Advisory Board moved their next meeting to Monday, May 15 due to election day.

Public Comment or Open Discussion

Adjournment

Tracy Leet moved that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Willie McAdory and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.