

Erie County Human Relations Commission

Minutes – October 24, 2017

Attendance

Commissioners: Bob Howden, George Morgan, Sean Calhoun, Tracy Leet, Connie Manus, Tony Logue (by phone) and Amy Danzer

Staff: Joe Aguglia, Charlotte Scalise, and Wayne Harbison

Commission Members Not in Attendance

Willie McAdory could not be contacted about the meeting.

The position from Jay Brenneman on the Commission is still open.

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm

Approval of Minutes

Sean Calhoun made a motion to approve the minutes from September. This was seconded by Connie Manus. They were approved unanimously.

Directors Report

Joe Aguglia will be going to the County Council budget meeting tomorrow. We have asked for a \$10,000 increase in the budget. He and Doug Smith will present the reasons for the budget request.

Joe Aguglia gave a presentation to the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation today.

There may be a housing hearing before the holidays.

New Business

The resolution for the CDGB funding was signed by the chair and secretary for the City of Erie to pay for the commercials. There are two proposals for airing the HRC commercials. One is for Fox 66 only (not JET 24) while the other is for WSEE, CW and ME TV. The one for one for Fox has only one station but includes a banner and has rotation. It was noted that we advertised on Fox last time. The proposal for Fox did not specify the programs on which the advertisement would run. They would generally not run on the weekends on Fox. Most of the slots for WSEE, CW and ME TV are during the week but have some on the weekends. The shows on which they will show are noted. There are more spots with WSEE and it is a \$5 less than the WJET proposal. Tracy Leet motioned that we use WSEE. This was seconded by Sean Calhoun. This was approved unanimously.

Charlotte Scalise proposed that a general fair housing brochure be developed through the help of the HRC Advisory Committee that includes all other aspects of fair housing such as affordability, utility costs, etc. It was mentioned that the HRC could help provide one but we may not be able to help individuals with the other issues since we only deal with discrimination. Calls to us about the information in the brochure would lead staff to make referrals to the most appropriate social services to help with the specific issues they were facing.

Charlotte Scalise passed out the schedule for the meetings for 2018. Changing the time of the meetings to 6:30 pm was proposed but rejected. Tony Logue moved to accept the schedule proposed for next year and Tracy Leet seconded. This passed unanimously.

Old Business

Until the resolution about changing the ordinance is passed, rejected or amended, we will hold off printing the general brochure.

The revision to the ordinance concerning criminal history exemptions proposed at the last meeting where representatives of the landlord association attended was soundly rejected by County Council at the finance committee meeting. Jay Brenneman then proposed a revision to the criminal history section taken directly from HUD. Sean Calhoun brought an ordinance excerpt about criminal history from Legal Action Center from Madison WI. The proposal we had first sent including source of income, gender identity and criminal history (without delineating exemptions) had a first reading by County Council but has not, as of yet, received a second reading.

Given the two proposals we had submitted and the proposal that Jay Brenneman has put forward, discussion ensued. The general consensus was that the HRC should wait until County Council has voted on the various proposals before we present anything else to council. Joe Aguglia had suggested that to one council member and Doug Smith in an email earlier this week. The Commission asked him to send that email to all other members of County Council.

Public Comment or Open Discussion

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.