

Erie County Human Relations Commission (ECHRC) – Commissioners Meeting

Minutes – August 23rd 2022

Call to Order/Roll Call:

The Meeting was called to Order by chair Mary Jo Campbell via zoom at 6:03 PM.

Commission Members Present: Chair Mary Jo Campbell, Secretary Christine Mitchell, Dana Williams, Marc Blount, Katrina Byrd.

Commission Members Not Present: John Steiner, Jeff Pinski, Kathryn DiVittorio.

County/Staff Wayne Harbison

County Council Ellen Schauerman, Andre Horton

Minutes. Motion to approve June 28th minutes by Commissioner Blount and Byrd.

Chair Report/Commissioners Comments Open seats Mary Rennie and Jim Winarski and we want to fill those spots. Chair Campbell addressed the ongoing discussions about the future of the HRC. Councilman Horton updated us that council will be hiring a new executive director and thanked everyone and they are working on the job description and the most important thing is to do it correctly. They want to have it done by October for budget discussions. Councilwoman Schauerman addressed that it was a unanimous decision to continue and we need the right person to move this forward and also to activate the advisory board so that we increase visibility. We will review the by-laws and ordinance and work to increase visibility. Chairwoman Campbell will be talking to the paper about the commission for a how does county government work series. Chairwoman Campbell also stressed that the complainants need to provide their own attorney and we will research options. We will go over the ordinance and bylaws.

Public Comment none.

Director's Report: Two or Three cases expected to come to a public hearing shortly. One new case filed awaiting response and several additional inquiries that are possible cases.

Old Business: Meeting change we are changing to the 4th Wednesday zoom except for November which will be the 3rd Wednesday. We will plan a meet and greet when the new director is hired. Zoom training Wayne is pursuing the EEOC training capabilities. Julie has also been looking and Chair Campbell will work with both of them. Hearing Panel is Commissioners Campbell, Pinski and Mitchell additional volunteers are welcome. Councilman Horton discussed the housing situation and needs. Statements of financial interests for commissioners were due by May 1st please complete per Wayne's instructions and sent to the county clerk.

New Business: none

Next Commissioner meeting September 28th.

Adjournment: Adjourned by commissioners Mitchell and Williams at 6:39 p.m.