

Erie County Human Relations Commission (ECHRC) – Commissioners Meeting

Minutes – October 26th 2022

Call to Order/Roll Call:

The Meeting was called to Order by chair Mary Jo Campbell via zoom at 6:02 PM.

Commission Members Present: Chair Mary Jo Campbell, Vice Chair Jeff Pinski, Secretary Christine Mitchell, Marc Blount, Dana Williams.

Commission Members Not Present: Kathryn DiVittorio, Katrina Byrd.

County/Staff Wayne Harbison, Julie Slomski

County Council Ellen Schauerman, Andre Horton

City Council Mo Troop

Advisory Board Alex Sphon

Minutes. Dana Williams and Jeff Pinski motioned to approve the August 23rd meeting. Notes from 9-28 will correct next meeting date to October 26th.

Report from county Council Ad Hoc Team. Councilman Horton thanked all for their commitment and hard work. They are working the director position and will be scheduling an adhoc meeting but it is taking time with budget and election season. We did receive the toolkit from the state to help us to do it correctly the first time. Corrected by Julie Slomski that the toolkit had not yet arrived.

Chair Report/Commissioners Comments Chair Campbell addressed the need for appointments with two vacancies and likely 4 appointments expiring at the end of the year. Julie Slomski will send that information out again to make council members aware and Councilman Horton indicated the budget and getting the office funded and a solid director hired are top priorities. Open seats Mary Rennie and Jim Winarski and we want to fill those spots

Public Comment Alex Sphon commented that the advisory board is still meeting and working hard to assist.

Director's Report: Mr. Harbison expects to have one or two cases come for hearing before the end of the year. Two to three cases also may need to be dismissed. A few remaining ones at least one maybe two headed to a public hearing. Wayne has been addressing legal representation for clients by northwest legal services and training with the eoc. WE discussed the 2023 schedule and it will mirror 2022 with meetings moved to 4th Wednesday except for November 3rd Wednesday which will be a combined meeting. Motion by Chair Campbell and Secretary Mitchell to approve the 2023 schedule for advertising – motion approved. We need a member who will not hear the case to work with the office on dismissal. That person will work with Wayne and the panel attorneys to confirm whether to recommend dismissal. Commissioner Blount volunteered to accept this post. Hearing Panel is Commissioners Campbell, Pinski and Mitchell. Commissioner Williams volunteered to be on the hearing panel as an alternate.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Next Commissioner meeting November 16th.

Adjournment: Adjourned by commissioners Pinski and Mitchell at 6:45 p.m.