

Erie County Human Relations Commission (ECHRC) – Commissioners Meeting

Notes – September 28th 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, Vice Chair Jeff Pinski, Secretary Christine Mitchell, Marc Blount.

Commission Members Not Present: Kathryn DiVittorio, Katrina Byrd, Dana Williams.

County/Staff Wayne Harbison, Julie Slomski

County Council Ellen Schauerman, Andre Horton

City Council Mo Troop

Advisory Board Kathy Schaaf, Ken Brasington, Edison Nicholson

Minutes. No quorum we will approve next time.

Report from county Council Ad Hoc Team. The Ad Hoc Team is working with Lyle Cook from the state HRC and he is sending the information and we should have by the end of the week. They are working on the job description for the director. We commissioners will receive the information. Councilman Horton and Schauerman will be reviewing job requirements and preparing the job posting.

Chair Report/Commissioners Comments Chair Campbell addressed the article in the paper and how her comments were intended to be positive going forward for the commission. Open seats Mary Rennie and Jim Winarski and we want to fill those spots. If we know anyone interested they can apply. 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 Kathy Schaaf and Ken Brasington addressed the advisory board quorum issues also and asked if there was a proxy option available which is not currently in the rules. Edison Nicholson mentioned notification issues which we need to address. Wayne had a computer upgrade and lost some of his contacts and is ensuring they are all correct.

Director's Report: Wayne discussed the old vacated decision a 2013 complaint from 2019 by the Commonwealth Court. 7-8 inquiries – 5-6 ongoing. 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 eeoc.

Old Business: Meeting change we are changing to the 4th Wednesday zoom except for November which will be the 3rd Wednesday combined meeting. Hearing Panel is Commissioners Campbell, Pinski and Mitchell additional volunteers are welcome. 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 October 26th.

Adjournment: Adjourned by commissioners Mitchell and Pinski at 6:42 p.m.