

# CITY OF TERRE HAUTE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Terre Haute Human Relations Commission

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, Minutes

City Hall, 5:00 PM

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Mulcher at 5:00 PM.

**Present:** Director, AT Ryan. President, Sandy Mutchler, Commissioners: Dana Simons, Dee Reed, Nichelle Campbell-Miller, Michael Reed, and Justin Sears. Mayor Brandon Sakbun was also in attendance.

**Absent:** Jeff Trotter, Uzziah Hutchinson, and Katie Lugar.

**Approval of September Minutes** – A motion was made by Dana Simons to accept the September minutes, and it was seconded by Nichelle. The motion passed.

**Report from Mayor** – Mayor Sakbun attended the meeting to share some updates about PrideFest. After conversations with Indiana State University, the City has offered to be the new location for the annual PrideFest event. The City will offer Fairbanks Park for the location and the commission will be a partner on the event.

**Director's Report** – Every member received a copy of the director's report and Financial Report. Director Ryan attended several events and meetings during the months of November and December. There were one inquiries with the HRC. It was one for employment (complaint filed with Indiana Civil Rights Commission). Director Ryan made the commission aware of her presentation of the annual report to the City Council. She updated the commission on several upcoming presentations and meetings as well. A motion to accept the Director's Report was made by Dana Simons and seconded by Dee Reed. The motion passed.

## **Old Business**

**MLK Day 2025** – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration and Panel Discussion at Vigo County History Museum. IN partnership with the History Center and the NAACP, the commission will be hosting a celebration and panel discussion at the History center Monday, January 20, 2025, at 6 PM. The museum will be open to visitors from 12 PM – 6 PM and will be open and free. There will be a reception in the auditorium with cookies, lemonade, and tea. Items to discuss – Panelists and Topic/Theme.

# CITY OF TERRE HAUTE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

In order for the museum to be free admission and in thanks to the museum for its continued partnership, Director Ryan sought approval for a \$1000 donation to the museum.

Youth Programing – The commission is hoping to partner with the Vigo County Library to offer read-aloud and activities focused on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. throughout the holiday weekend. Director Ryan will meet in the coming days with the Library staff to finalize the event details.

Book Club – The commission was approached by Dr. Anne D’Orazio and Dr. Mary Howard Hamilton about leading a book club that would help “continue the conversation” beyond the Dr. King Holiday. They have both indicated interest in reading Dr. King’s final book *Where do we go from here? Community of Chaos*. The commission will host an in-person book club monthly in which members of the community could engage in discussions around how we can apply the teachings of Dr. King to our contemporary climate. The first meeting will be in January and meet each month on the forth Thursday of each month.

A motion to approve the \$1000 contribution to the museum was made by Dana Simons and seconded by Nichelle Campbell-Miller. The motion passed.

**Black History Month 2025** – Director Ryan shared key updates on the Black History Month Banner project. The nomination form opened on December 10 and will close on January 3. The original honorees’ new banners are in production with ACE sign in Terre Haute. The committee will meet the following week to review their scores and select the new honorees. The library is archiving the original banners.

Director Ryan sought approval of the purchase of the banners at the rate of \$76 per banner. A motion was made by Dana Simons and seconded by Dee Reed. The motion passed.

**Purchase of Promotional Items** - Director Ryan presented quotes for customized pens, pencils, notepads and hand sanitizers. Director Ryan sought approval for a purchase of up to \$2500. A motion was made by Nichelle Campbell-Miller and seconded by Dana Simons. The motion passed.

**Statements from Commissioners** - Sandy Mutchler – There will be a storytelling event on December 21, 2024, at 6 PM located at Arts Illiana. This event will include stories of the season or the holidays of the season. Michael Reed – This was his last meeting and gave advice on how the commission should remember to consider the opinions of people without a specific agenda.

# **CITY OF TERRE HAUTE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**Statements from Audience on items not on the agenda** – There were none.

**Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:05. A motion to adjourn was made by Dana Simons and seconded by Nichelle Campbell-Miller. The motion passed.