

CITY OF TERRE HAUTE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Terre Haute Human Relations Commission

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, Minutes

City Hall, 5:30 PM

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Mulcher at 5:30 PPM.

Present: Director, AT Ryan. President, Sandy Mutchler, Commissioners: Dana Simons, Uzziah Hutchinson, Dee Reed, and Michael Reed. The mayor’s youth council appointment was also at this meeting.

Absent: Jeff Trotter, Katie Lugar, Nichelle Campbell-Miller, and Justin Sears.

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

Director’s Report – Every member received a copy of the director’s report and Financial Report. Director Ryan attended many events and meetings during the months of October and November. Director Ryan attended PrideFest, Civil Rights Commission Dinner, Human Rights Day Meeting, meeting with Terre Haute Day Team, meeting with Fourt Wayne United Day Team, Meeting with Dr. Mary, and many more. There were two inquiries with the HRC: one about housing (looking for resources after being evicted) and one for employment (complaint filed with Indiana Civil Rights Commission). Title VI is in review with legal and city collaboration on Equity and Inclusion Training. Purchases for technology and office supplies were made but are not reflected yet in the report. A motion to accept the Director’s Report was made by Uzziah Hutchinson and seconded by Dana Simons. The motion passed.

Old Business

Purchase of Equipment – A TV was purchased.

New Business

2025 Meeting Dates – The Human Relations Commission has typically met on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Board of Works Conference Room. If we would like to continue with this meeting date, time, and location. A motion was made to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 PM by Dana Simons and seconded by Dee Reed. The motion passed.

CITY OF TERRE HAUTE

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

December Meeting – It was discussed to move the December meeting a week earlier because of the closeness to the holiday. The commission will meet at 5:00 PM on December 11, 2024. The motion was made by Dana Simon and seconded by Uziah Hutchinson. The motion passed.

Annual Report – All commissioners received a copy of the Annual report from Director Ryan. Per the city code, “The commission shall render an annual report of its activities to the mayor and to the Common Council and shall render such other additional reports as the Mayor or the Common Council may from time-to-time request. The reports shall describe in detail the investigations and conciliation proceedings it has conducted, the outcome of such proceedings, the progress made, and any other work performed and achievement toward the elimination.” Director Ryan put together the Human Relations Commission’s 2024 Annual Report. It complies information about the programs, events, and initiatives we have completed this year. The report will be presented once accepted by the commission to the City Council at the December 5 meeting. Director Ryan asked if there are any changes that need to be made to let her know before the city council meeting. Director Ryan is giving this report on December 5, 2024, at 6 PM at the City Council meeting. A motion was made to accept the Annual Report was made by Uziah Hutchinson and seconded by Michael Reed. The motion passed.

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.

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 would 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 tentative dates would be to begin meeting in January and meet each month on the third Thursday of each month and the location is TBD.

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 is still working to coordinate with the library on this event.

Black History Month 2025 – Black History Month Banners there is a nomination form. The significant contribution to our community and how this person can inspire others and a photo of the person. The forms will be scored by the committee that has been formed. Social media post will start going out next week about the nomination forms for the banners. A post will go

CITY OF TERRE HAUTE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

out each week for about 3 in a half to four weeks. Banners will be purchased through ACE sign in Terre Haute. The committee will meet before the initial post goes live.

Statements from Commissioners - Sandy Mutchler – There will be a story telling 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.

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

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 6:28. A motion to adjourn was made by Michael Reed and seconded by Dana Simons. The motion passes.