

Minutes
October 18, 2023

Commissioner Present:

Lisa Blount
Kathryn Cobb-Holmes
Valerie Phelps Robinson
Richard Wagner
Anthony Reynolds

Commissioner(s) Absent:

N/A

Staff:

Kimberly Talbot

Guest:

None

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Cobb-Holmes at 6:10 p.m. The minutes from September were reviewed. Commissioner Wagner moved to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Blount. The minutes were approved.

Executive Director's Report

The E.D. will be presenting the office budget in front of council on September 15th.

Issues with staffing the intake specialist position were discussed.

The clerk position was filled by Ms. Cachet Greene. She will begin on November 1st.

The HRC will partner with BCTV to make a commercial as well as mini vignettes regarding the various protected classes and or new EEOC laws. We want to raise the office visibility.

The E. D. will be applying for two grants. Both grants will address housing discrimination, outreach, and education. The E.D. is working with the city consultant that is working on the equity plan. We are also making efforts to become a FHAP (fair housing assistance program) again.

Commissioner Wagner moved to accept the E.D.'s report and Commissioner Blount seconded. The report was approved.

Old Business

Commissioner Phelps Robinson needs her interview done by council. The E.D. will discuss this issue with Linda Kelleher, City Clerk.

New Business

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes requested an update on our EEOC (equal employment opportunity commission) contract. Our contract was renewed for 2024.

Commissioners welcomed Anthony Reynolds to the board as a new Commissioner. Mr. Reynolds is a supervisor at the Reading Area Water Authority.

Commissioners want the E.D. to actively seek training opportunities for the board.

Commissioners want to focus on housing discrimination and then employment.

Good & Welfare

Commissioner Wagner reports the following:

-He is running for President elect once the current President's term is up.

-Reading Pride is trying to do more fundraisers as well as focus on the main event

-Transgender Day of Remembrance is November 20th.

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes will be attending the BeWise event on October 24th. The event provides information from the public utility commission.

The E.D. will send job fair flyers for Careerlink (October 30th at the Abe Lincoln from 12-5) and BCPS (Berks connections pretrial services) is on October 23rd at the DoubleTree Hotel from 9 to noon.

Training:

There are no scheduled trainings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.