

Minutes
February 21, 2024

Commissioner Present:

Lisa Blount
Kathryn Cobb-Holmes
Anthony Reynolds
Richard Wagner

Commissioner(s) Absent:

Valerie Phelps Robinson

Staff:

Kimberly Talbot

Council Liaison:

Wesley Butler

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Commissioner Cobb-Holmes. The minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Wagner moved to accept the minutes. Commissioner Blount seconded. The minutes were accepted.

Executive Director's Report

The E.D. reported that the state of the city address occurred on January 30th.

The EEOC is providing funds for a joint project. The HRC will be advertising on Barta buses. The grant amount is \$3500.00.

The HUD grants that were submitted needed modifications.

The HRC received three (3) EEOC inquiries and one (1) housing intake.

The new intake specialist will start March 1st.

Our new council liaisons are Westley Butler and Melissa Ventura.

Old Business

Commissioners discussed the eviction project thru Judge Butler's court. MidPenn legal provides representation in Judge Butler's & Johnson's court. We hope to expand within the local DJ's offices.

There is a lead training scheduled for 2/24 at city hall if anyone is interested. Volunteers will be paid for distributing information within the community.

There is still approximately 300K in covid money for rental assistance.

The Inn at Reading is evicting families/individuals that live there or were placed there by an agency. The last day is 3/12/24.

New Business

Commissioner Blount wants the office to plan an activity for Fair Housing Month. Councilman Butler will help with a contact person.

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes requested that a new contact list be disseminated between Commissioners.

Good & Welfare

Commissioner Wagner reports that Transgender Day of Remembrance will occur on 4/5/24. Reading Pride also turned down the office space at 831 Walnut Street. Lastly, Reading Pride & festival will be the 3rd weekend in July 2024.

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes reports that there will be changes to some of BCIU's learning centers. The program to help pregnant women – 3-year-olds will be dissolved after March 2024.

BCIU no longer has covid testing sites however the public can get free tests from the front desk.

Commissioner Blount reports:

-The Gospel Jubilee is on 2/25 at 4 p.m. at the Albright Chapel.

-Alvernia University celebration of black history month is scheduled for 2/23 at 5 p.m. in Francis Hall atrium.

Training:

On 2/28 there is a fair housing fundamentals training via zoom.

On 3/27 there is a fair housing training on hoarding.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.