

City of Reading Human Relations Commission  
October 10, 2018  
MINUTES

Commissioners Present:

Richard Wagner  
Zelda Yoder  
Kathryn Amaker, Chair  
Barbara Coffin  
Stacey Taylor  
Barbara Coffin (Via Telephone)  
Karen Archie

Absent

Lisa Blount  
Valerie Phelps Robinson

Staff

Kimberly Talbot

Guest

Christopher M. Ellis

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Commissioner Amaker. The minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Taylor moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Yoder seconded.

Public Comment: Mr. Christopher Ellis came to speak with the Commission regarding protections for the LGBTQ community as well as including source of income as a protected status under housing discrimination. The E.D. has already been in contact with the Director & Attorney for Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations regarding source of income. They are willing to provide guidance and information.

Executive Director's Report

The office has two interns thru the program with Careerlink. Both ladies are bilingual. We successfully met our EEOC contract with 3 closures and 12 intakes. Our 2019 contract is for 2 closures and 12 intakes. BeWise Event at the Doubletree is on 10/22 from 7:45 a.m. – 4 p.m. The office is scheduled to present on the ESG program. Commissioner Amaker volunteered to have one of her staff members get the information so it can be shared with the board. Commissioner Yoder assisted on the phones in the office for a morning. Nilda did an outreach & education event at the Salvation Army on 10/4. There were 2 case transfers to the EEOC.

Old Business:

Commissioner Taylor requested copies of the information that was to be passed out at BeWise. Commissioner Amaker will be responsible for this. Commissioner Amaker reports that the Berks Community Health Center is supposed to be open before Christmas. It is on Rockland Street. Commissioner Amaker reports that the Early Learning Resource Center is open and running. It is at the main office of BCIU. Every state programs information is contained in the Resource Center. There are also 3 computers for available internal positions with the IU.

New Business

Commissioner Yoder suggested taking a look at the mission and/or vision statements. The E.D. will email the statements as well as the duties of the office. Commissioners will review and begin to think about whether the statement needs to be changed.

Commissioner Wagner reports that every Thursday beginning 10/11 at Rainbow Starr (10<sup>th</sup> & Penn) there will be a Spaghetti Dinner with meatball/sausage & garlic bread for \$6.99. Shocktoberfest is on October 19<sup>th</sup>, \$10. The event begins at 7 p.m. These events will benefit Reading Pride.

Commissioner Taylor provided the following information regarding NAACP activities: The freedom fund gala is on October 20<sup>th</sup>, adults \$60/\$65 (at the door), Youth \$40. On 10/21, "The Hate You Give" will be show and discussion afterwards. Commissioner Taylor reports that scholarship consideration now includes women who have been incarcerated. December 10<sup>th</sup> will be the holiday social at Zion church beginning at 6 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor also discussed Reading Rising 2.0 meeting which will occur on November 27, 2018.

Commissioner Yoder reports that we will be welcoming a new commissioner to our board. Ms. Karen Archie was approved in June 2018. I will contact Linda Kelleher, city clerk for further information.

#### Conferences and Training

None scheduled at this time

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectively submitted,