

## **Minutes**

### **West Lafayette Human Relations Commission**

**November 20, 2012**

#### **City Hall**

In attendance: Shook, Hong, Klingerman, Blackburn, Baha, Iyer, Subeck, Ramani, Z. Williams (counsel)

Members of public in attendance: S. Viars, L. Kaine (LGBTQ @ Purdue); E. Hulett, A. Smith

#### **I. Regular Business**

- a) Determine the existence of a quorum and call the meeting to order – 7:00 p.m.
- b) Approve the agenda – Baha, Blackburn. Approved.
- c) Ramani will attend and serve as Assistant Secretary.
- d) Approve minutes from August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting – Klingerman, Blackburn. Approved.

#### **II. Regular and Continuing Business**

- a) Diversity Roundtable Report - Everyone. W. Hong has attended DRT meetings since August. LGBTQ Center @ Purdue introduced. Group met w/ J&C to discuss recent community survey regarding diversity issues. Included surveys of Latin and African American Groups. J&C to report on results. Project led by J. Miller of Purdue College of Liberal Arts. Current events include “conversation circles” to discuss diversity issues facilitated by DRT members. Diversity Summit in April 2013. Call for attendance/presentation. C. Shook looking for a speaker from Ann Arbor to keynote Diversity Summit.
- b) Nominating Committee – V. Iyer. Vidhya, Phil, and Wei met. Historically, commissioners gave recommendations to Mayor. Commissioners want to have some/more input. Question for legal counsel: Is there way for commission to have official role in selection process? K. Reisman – not wise to formalize. V. Iyer – there is need for it to be written down. Nominating committee will prepare memorandum expressing desire to be consulted on new appointments.
- c) Report regarding public accommodation vs. private housing. Property is for those wanting to live lifestyle consistent with faith commitments – no alcohol, no pre-marital sex, etc. Pastor Viars: Property not market-level housing; it is covenant housing. Phrase in ordinance: “Public accommodations – community programs are open to everyone equally.” Counseling is indeed open to everyone, but it is a particular type of counseling that is predicated upon biblical/faith base counseling. C. Shook: We can handle the issues if/when they arise.
- d) Educate Citizens on HRC. PRIDE Lafayette is to invite WLHRC. West Lafayette Mayor’s Youth Council looking for different ways to get involved.

### III. New Business

- a) Open Forum – Proposition of HRC workshop meeting to educate on ordinance and resolutions. Overview of ordinance and practical ‘what we do’.
- b) Online Complaint Process. Currently, PDF must be printed, completed, and hand delivered. May pose obstacles to some. Suggestions for new process include online portal plus electronic signature/verification process. This will also allow for tracking of data. Key is access. Currently have a policy – writing, signature, verification, but they are internal rules that can be changed.
- c) 2013 Meeting Dates.
  - 2/12/2013
  - 4/30/2013
  - 8/20/2013
  - 11/12/2013
- d) Absenteeism. How to properly handle attendance? Will report excessive absenteeism to the Mayor. Commissioners can recommit at end of term.

### IV. Comments from the Audience

- a) Lowell Kane from LGBTQ Center @ Purdue. Center opened 7/16/2012 and reports to Vice Provost Taylor. 7% of all universities and all Big Ten schools have similar resource center. Position on campus – education, referral, resource. They work closely with PRIDE organizations and offer education/training/workshops on campus.  
[www.purdue.edu/lgbtq](http://www.purdue.edu/lgbtq).
- b) Ashley Smith discussed initiative in town to oppose HJR-6 – Marriage “protection” amendment to the Constitution. Ms. Smith provided overview of constitutional amendment. C. Shook – Is it proper as a Commission to voice opinion on pending legislation. We could help on personal basis, if not as a commission.

### V. Adjourn

- a) Baha to adjourn, Reisman second. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall