



CITY OF QUINCY
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
730 Maine Street | Second Floor | Quincy, IL 62301
Office: 217-228-4527 | Fax: 217-221-3608

Agenda

City of Quincy Human Rights Commission

Quincy City Hall

June 1, 2017 | 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order – Cecil Weathers, Chair

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes – Approval of the May 4, 2017 meeting minutes

Public Comment

Old Business

- Education Committee
- Public Relations
- Community Action

New Business

Commissioner's Comments

Adjournment

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 6, 2017

The Human Rights Commission works to provide leadership and advocacy to secure, protect, and promote human rights for all people. The Commission values the dignity of all human beings regardless of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identification, marital status, parental status, mental or physical disability, source of income, military status, military discharge status or any other protected status.



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MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 2017

Call to Order

Chair Cecil Weathers called the meeting to order at about 6:35 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Nayar Attai, Mike Baker, Wendy Beller, Les Fonza, Rev. James A. Hailey, Matt Hermsmeier, Richard Reis, Sue Rush, Susan Scholz, Cecil Weathers, Dennis Williams, LuBeth Young, Fr. Joe Zimmerman

Absent: Reggie Coleman, Eze Emeka

Approval of Minutes: Rush moved and Attai seconded a motion to approve the minutes, after the following corrections were made: the sentence under “Public Relations” regarding HRC involvement in Blues in the District was removed from the minutes. Rush does not remember making the offer to speak with Bruce Guthrie.

Public Comment

Three representatives of the Tri-State Black Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce, (www.ilbc.org) were present to ask for HRC support in a disparity study that their group is preparing to conduct. They plan to contract with an outside group to do the study. HRC members suggested they consult past annual reports of the HRC and GREDF for already available information. Weathers asked for volunteers to form a group to work with the project and the following responded: Attai, Baker, Rev. Hailey, Williams, Young, and Zimmerman. The group will organize itself via email.

The three representatives were:

Crystal Young, (217) 316-6230, sistayung@sbcglobal.net

Marla Ferguson, (217) 257-9170, marlaferguson@att.net

Stefan Crider, (217) 779-3350, stefancrider@sbcglobal.net

Superintendent Roy Webb was present to see if we had concerns relevant to the schools. The issue of naming the schools came up. Names of Black personalities were discussed: George Mason, Mr. Redmond, Herb Jackson, Martha Jane Tolton, and a Tuskegee Airman who was a Quincy native. Herb Jackson seemed to be near the top of the list of names favored during meetings of the committee for naming the schools. Young asked us all to go on the public school website (schoolboard@qps.org) and make our preferences known. The site sends a message to all the Board members simultaneously.

Old Business

- Education Committee – no report
- Public Relations – Scholz reported that her suggestion for HRC participation in Q-Fest was rejected because it did not fit with the mission of the event. Blues in the District seems a more promising locus for us to publicize our Commission. She mentioned a “box exercise” and a “Pintatonic” as possible activities to use during an intermission. She will pursue the issue.
- Community Conversations – no report. Williams suggested that the HRC use the summer months to revisit our efforts in this area.

New Business

Weathers was contacted by a tenant whose water had been turned off for two months. He was advised to have the tenant contact the City Code Enforcer, who will be able to handle the matter without our further involvement.

Rev. Hailey was contacted by a tenant who was ordered by the landlord ordered him to reduce water use to the point of non-use. The Commission saw this as an infringement of tenant rights.

Commissioners' Comments

Weathers welcomed Reis, who is Seventh Ward Alderman, as the official City Council representative on the Commission.

Weathers requested Hermsmeier to provide us with the latest Police Department Crime Rate statistics.

Adjournment: Williams moved and Reis seconded a motion for adjournment at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Zimmerman