



CITY OF QUINCY
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
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Agenda

City of Quincy Human Rights Commission

Quincy City Hall

August 3, 2017 | 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order – Cecil Weathers, Chair

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes – Approval of the July 6, 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, September 7, 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
July 6, 2017

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Susan Scholz called the meeting to order at about 6:35 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Nayar Attai, Mike Baker, Matt Hermsmeier, Richard Reis, Sue Rush, Susan Scholz, Cecil Weathers, Dennis Williams, LuBeth Young, Fr. Joe Zimmerman

Absent: Wendy Beller, Reggie Coleman, Les Fonza, Rev. James A. Hailey, Cecil Weathers (exc)

Approval of Minutes: This secretary was not present for the June meeting. Scholz had taken notes but had not circulated them; she promised to make them available. She noted that there had not been a quorum at the June meeting.

Public Comment

Steve Bohnstedt, a professional photographer formerly working at the *Herald-Whig*, described his work during the past year interviewing and photographing homeless people in Quincy. He has gotten to know 27 such people and has an extensive collection of photos, some of which he displayed on a tablet computer. He has lived without regular income for the past year, knows these homeless people by name, and knows a lot about their histories. His goal is to use his work to make people more aware of what homelessness means. He came to our meeting simply to make us aware of what he is doing.

Roy Webb, Quincy School Superintendent, reported that things are going well, especially since the General Assembly passed a budget today. The new school construction work is going well. One disappointment: the truancy rate rose this past year.

Marla Ferguson and Stefan Crider were present to update us on the progress of the Tri-State Area Black Chamber of Commerce. Their group has had some communication problems; no meetings have taken place. The goal of the Chamber is to do a diversity study of Quincy businesses.

Macy Ferguson-Smith was present to recommend that we promote the viewing of a video documentary made last October.

Joel Logue was present as an observer.

Old Business

- **Education Committee** – Scholz noted that we have funds that can be used to promote the causes we just heard about.
- **Public Relations** – Scholz reported that the Community Conversation project is on hold. Williams noted some planning for a group dealing with White privilege.

New Business

Since the main business involved the work of the Nominating Committee, Scholz asked for a resolution for us to go into executive session, and requested the guests to leave.

Young reported on the status of HRC membership:

Terms expiring this year (2017)

Scholz – agrees to stay on

Fonza – agrees to stay on

Williams – agrees to stay on

Emeka has resigned; Young wishes to resign also, since she has accepted a position on the Quincy Public Library Board.

A motion was passed authorizing Scholz to write a letter to Beller informing her that her absences from meetings are considered as her resignation from the Commission.

The three officers have agreed to continue in their roles: Weathers as chair, Scholz as vice-chair, and Zimmerman as secretary.

There are thus three openings on the Commission (for Beller, Emeka, and Young). The nominating Committee proposes Kate Daniels (for a term ending in 2020), and Macy-Ferguson-Smith and Joel Logue (for terms ending in 2018). Their membership has to be approved by the Mayor.

Commissioners' Comments

Williams informed us of plans for a Teen Reach fundraiser at the former Girl Scout Camp on Ghost Hollow Road, to be held on September 23. The goal is to involve a wide variety of people in races.

Young received thanks for her faithful service to the Commission.

A motion to adjourn was approved at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Zimmerman
Secretary