



MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION - REGULAR SESSION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024, 4:30 PM

The Human Relations Commission convened in regular session at 4:30 PM, September 12, 2024. Chair Anthony Jones called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Anthony Jones	Chair	Present
Rhonda Smith	Commissioner	Present
Amy Endicott	Commissioner	Present
Uma Kailasam	Commissioner	Present
Netia Carey	Commissioner	Present
Ky Ajayi	Commissioner	Present
Kiranmayi Konam	Commissioner	Present

Public Comment

Individuals wishing to provide emailed public comment must email comments to publiccomment@cityblm.org at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. Individuals wishing to speak in-person may register at cityblm.org/register at least 5 minutes before the start of the meeting.

No public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Ajayi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the item as presented.

Chair Jones directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Smith; Konam; Jones; Ajayi; Carey; Kailasam;

Endicott Motion passed.

The following item was presented:

Item 4.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the August 8, 2024,

Regular

Human Relations Committee meeting.

Commissioner Ajayi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the item as presented

Chair Jones directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Smith; Konam; Jones; Ajayi; Carey; Kailasam;

Endicott Motion passed.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Presentation providing an update on Bloomington Human Relations Commission Complaints by Gregory Wilson

Staff liaison Gregory Wilson mentioned having no new complaints for the month.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Presentation providing an update on the 2025 MLK Luncheon By Gregory Wilson

Jones reported speaking with Wilson about securing potential speakers for the MLK event. Wilson mentioned that the MLK Sponsorship letter has been finalized. Jones will send inquiries to speaking bureaus to identify speakers. Tony has identified companies that could sponsor the MLK event. Smith inquired about the timeline for confirming and locking in a speaker, to which Jones responded that securing a speaker as soon as possible is a priority. Ajayi suggested author Michael Harriott, who writes for The ROOT magazine and published the book "Black AF History – The Un-Whitewashed Story of America," as a potential speaker, believing he would be an excellent choice for the MLK event. Ajayi also proposed fundraising to expand the commission's work beyond the current budget. Endicott discussed the event's theme and emphasized a focus on victims' rights, suggesting that the Human Relations Commission should prioritize this issue. Jones agreed, seeing a connection between victims' rights and the MLK event. Smith supported the idea of highlighting victims' rights and agreed with Ajayi on the importance of fundraising to support these initiatives. Endicott suggested a focus on victim's rights". Smith and Ajayi disagreed and suggested perhaps the topic in a potential future restructuring of the MLK event.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.C. Presentation providing recap on Cultural Fest by Tony Jones.

Jones mentioned the event being successful and its 45th year. Most of the cultures in the community were represented. Jones mentioned the Human Relations Commission getting recognition as a sponsor from the stage. Smith mentioned the diversity continues to grow.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.D. Presentation providing an update on the 2024 DiverCITY! event by Gregory Wilson.

Wilson provided an update on the DiverCITY! event happening on October 28, 2024. He mentioned the food vendors and performances that will be present. Wilson also discussed the possibility of changing the event date due to weather. He will continue to monitor the weather and provide cancellation notice early enough for food vendors and all participants.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.E. Presentation providing an update on the 2024 Diwali Celebration by Uma Kailasam

Kailasam provided updates, including outreach to the fire department regarding fireworks for the event. Two key aspects being focused on are food and securing performers. The team is considering the Interstate Center as a potential venue for the event. Jones and Uma will work on confirming the availability of the fireworks and the Interstate Center. Smith suggested the possibility of combining elements of other events, such as DiverCITY!, the Cultural Fest, and Diwali. However, Kailasam noted that this celebration is specifically tailored to the Indian

community. It was also noted that the HRC would be happy to support the event by providing resources, budget allowing, and a financial contribution.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.F. Presentation providing update on MLK Sponsorship letter.

Wilson completed the MLK Sponsorship letter with input from all commissioners and will e to include an electronic link and QR code to facilitate donations. Endicott suggested launching a social media campaign to boost donations. Wilson also proposed creating a sponsorship package and mentioned that the revised letter would be completed and sent to commissioners by 9/13/2024. Ajayi inquired whether the commission is a non -profit organization and if it has the ability to fundraise. Uma suggested adding details about donor levels in the MLK letter. Jones offered to research and provide an overview of potential benefits for each sponsorship level. Smith noted that Ms. Ernestine Jackson used to handle the fundraising for the event.

Old Business

New Business

The following item was presented:

Item 7.A. Setting an Agenda for 2025 - Beyond Dinners and Dances by Ky Ajayi

Ajayi raised concerns about the current budget being solely allocated to MLK events, suggesting that funds should also be directed towards other causes. He emphasized the importance of incorporating more educational components into supported causes. Endicott agreed, supporting the focus on educational elements. Konam suggested engaging with victim rights groups and other local organizations, as well as considering local speakers for the event. Endicott echoed this, emphasizing the value of having local individuals and groups speak at the MLK event.

Jones asked if three commissioners would be available to meet and discuss these ideas further. Endicott and Konam confirmed their availability.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date

October 10th, 2024

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM.

Commissioner Endicott made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to to close the executive session..

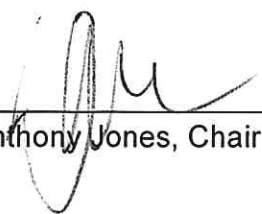
Chair Jones directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Smith; Konam; Jones; Ajayi; Carey; Kailasam;

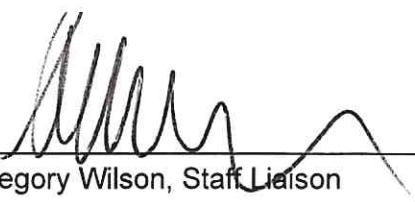
Endicott Motion passed.

The Meeting Adjourned at 5:46 PM.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Anthony Jones, Chair



Gregory Wilson, Staff Liaison

