



CITY HALL • 100 STATE STREET • BELOIT, WI 53511

MINUTES
BELOIT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
AND HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 5:30 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM by Chair Kathryn Ingram.

Present: Commissioners Kathryn Ingram, Gretchen Roy, Carolyn Lawrence, Martin Densch, and Staff Representative Teri Downing. Commissioner Dennis Walsh was present by telephone conference. Absent: Commissioners Ricardo Valdez, Yadira Guardarrama.

2. Approval of Minutes of the November 17, 2010 Meeting

Commissioner Roy moved for approval of minutes of the regular meeting held on November 17, 2010 with the following amendments:

- Staff provided the number Fair Housing complaints open at this time and at which step they are in the investigative process.
- Commissioner Lawrence announced that there is a fundraiser for the Merrill Center at the Eclipse Center on New Years Eve.

Commissioner Lawrence seconded, and the motion carried.

3. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

4. Review and Consideration of Voluntary Conciliation Agreements:

Staff explained that the Markley Investigations had reached a determination of probable cause in four fair housing complaints. The investigator had obtained a voluntary conciliation agreement with all the parties, and it is now before the Commission to review and either approve or disapprove. A lengthy discussion took place between the Commissioners regarding the Conciliation Agreements being mutually agreed upon by the parties. Commissioner Lawrence expressed concern that the Commission was just rubber stamping the order, which she did not agree with doing. She explained that she thinks Mr. Chernawky's violations were egregious and that he should have a harsher punishment be punished further. She explained that although the Complainants had agreed to accept the damages in the agreements, she would have liked the Commission to have more input as to what is in these kinds of agreements.

- a. Complaint 2009-05: Clarice Grant v. Countryside Village, Barry Chernawsky
Commissioner Ingram moved to approve the Conciliation Agreement for Complaint 2009-05 as presented and Commissioner Roy seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 -1 with Commissioner Lawrence voting in opposition.
 - b. Complaint 2009-05-01: James Sharkey v. Countryside Village, Barry Chernawsky
Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Conciliation Agreement for Complaint 2009-05-01 as presented and Commissioner Ingram seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 -1 with Commissioner Lawrence voting in opposition.
 - c. Complaint 2009-05-02: Sharekia Mosley v. Countryside Village, Barry Chernawsky
Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Conciliation Agreement for Complaint 2009-05-02 as presented and Commissioner Ingram seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 -1 with Commissioner Lawrence voting in opposition.
 - d. Complaint 2009-07: Brittany Hill v. Countryside Village, Barry Chernawsky
Commissioner Ingram moved to approve the Conciliation Agreement for Complaint 2009-07 as presented and Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 -1 with Commissioner Lawrence voting in opposition.
5. Upcoming Events
Staff explained that there will be a series of Fair Housing Education seminars held on February 28th. Staff also announced that the State will be conducting an annual poster and essay contest again and asked the Commission for suggestions of agencies to contact. Commissioner Roy suggested contacting the Middle Schools and High School to see if there is a History or Political Science classes that may be interested in participating in the essay contest. Commissioner Lawrence suggested contacting the Merrill Community Center and Boys and Girls club again. Commission Lawrence also suggested having information available at BIFF.
6. Adjournment
Commissioner Ingram moved for adjournment and Commissioner Lawrence seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM by Chair Kathryn Ingram.

Teri Downing
Special Programs Administrator