

Valparaiso Human Relations Council Minutes - September 25, 2018

Present: Jeff Balon, Sam Burow-Flak, Heath Carter (Chair), Alex Clanton, Hannah Hammond-Hagman, Bill Lewis, Roxanne Mendez Johnson, Willow Walsh, Abdus Zubair

1. Heath Carter offered a series of updates and announcements, including a) that the deadline for the latest round of Cultural Arts Grant funding has passed and the review panel will convene soon to discuss the applications; b) the HRC had a table at the World Cultural Festival; c) the Indiana Civil Rights Commission has mentioned the possibility of a free training for city employees; d) the discrimination resources page on the website has been updated and a First Responders form will soon be posted to it as well; and e) Mayor Costas has appointed Laurie Mullet, CEO of Pines Village Retirement Communities, as a new voting member of the HRC.
2. Spencer Skinner, ValpoNEXT board member, made a presentation on Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority programs that may be of interest to the city as it seeks to expand its toolbox for development and redevelopment to include tools for affordable housing. An extensive discussion with members of the council and public ensued.
3. The HRC unanimously passed a resolution urging the mayor and city council to explore two particular programs: the Community Development Bloc Grant program, which offers funds to homeowners for repairs to their homes, and the HOME grant program, which offers state funds to developers who will set aside some rental units at below-market rates.
4. The meeting was adjourned.