



Commission Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Chairman Elijah Neal called the Commission Board Meeting to order on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 10:37 a.m. in the Indiana State House, Room 101.

Roll Call

Kenneth Allen, Tim Brown proxy for Bruce Lemmon, Elijah Neal Jr., Virgil Madden proxy for Lt. Governor Office, Adrienne Shields proxy for Lance Rhodes, Lynn Smith proxy for Kevin Moore, Rep. Vernon Smith, Danny Lopez proxy for Jamal Smith, Laura Heinrich proxy for William C. VanNess II, M.D., Reverend Joseph Smith, Wayne Wellington and Rob Wynkoop.

Absent – Rep. Tim Brown, Mindy Lewis, Sen. Scott Schneider, Dwayne Sawyer, and Sen. Greg Taylor.

Guest-

Staff – James Garrett Jr.

Invocation

Chairman Neal asked Vice Chair Tim Brown to lead the invocation with prayer. Following the prayer positive reflections were shared by those present.

Adoption of Minutes

Motion was moved by Reverend Joseph Smith, second by Kenneth Allen; motion passed to accept the January 30, 2013 minutes.

Financial Report

Commissioners were provided copies of the financial reports for the general and donations accounts. The standard operational expenditures were made from the appropriations (1000) account and there were no expenditures from the donations account. Motion was moved by Tim Brown, second by Danny Lopez; motion passed to accept the financial reports as presented. Chairman asked James to check on the seat charges/credit figure with the CFO Ms. Pam Cook.

Old Business

The Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative

Commissioners were updated on the progress of the upcoming Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative. The key information in the update is that twelve (12) cities are onboard, with fifty one (51) barbershops participating, two hundred forty two barbers (242) and over three hundred volunteers. (300). The target for this year's initiative is to screen a thousand or more persons (1000+). A new pilot for this year will be to provide screenings in a beauty salon in South Bend and a salon in Indianapolis with the hope that in the future the Indiana Women's Commission will come along side our commission for this statewide initiative to screen both black males and women. At all locations health information will be shared and special emphasis will be put on black males having prostate screens once they reach their middle thirties. Adrienne Shields moved that the proposed budget for the initiative be adopted and the same vendors as last year be used for the barber capes and t-shirts. The motion was seconded by Rob Wynkoop and the suggestion was made if necessary to use the logo/design from last year. The initiative kickoff will occur in the Indiana State House on Thursday, April 11, 2013 from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Old Business

Expungement Second Chance Law Forums

The Commission partnered with the Fort Wayne Commission and the Evansville Commission to facilitate four positive forums concerning the Second Chance Law. The forums included the author of the legislation Representative Jud McMillin, the local Prosecutors office and local attorneys to demystify the law and provide information regarding the law. The forums also took questions from the participants and attendees in an effort to build a frequently asked questions tab for the Commission website regarding the Second Chance law. It was suggested to identify through the Indiana Department of Correction, ex-offenders who should be made aware of the law and provided helpful information and timetables associated with the law. Ideas discussed included preparing a flyer or information document to mail out and disseminate across the state. Another suggestion was to possibly get a copy of the law and break down the highlights of the law and prepare a cheat sheet. Commissioner Poole suggested that the Commission consider including Work Release and Probation personnel in future information forums.

Commissioner Melton shared the success of the information forums in Lake County and mentioned that the Hatcher Law firm prepared a Power Point Presentation that may be helpful to the Commission moving forward. Commissioner Reverend Smith emphasized that whatever is done regarding the law, the information from the Commission needs to be prepared in layman's language to help our constituency better understand the law. He also suggested forming partnerships in communities with churches, Work One offices and other groups or organizations serving ex-offenders. The hope is that whatever plan devised can be blanketed across the state and especially through the local commissions. Commissioner Lynn Smith recommended that the Commission use remaining funds available to prepare, and disseminate the Second Chance law fact sheet, information document, cheat sheet or other helpful aids across the state. He also suggested planning and executing more informational forums in communities.

New Business

Upcoming Events and Youth Symposium Consideration

Executive Director Garrett stated the upcoming events as; Statewide HIV/Aids Awareness program at Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School, November 7, 2013 beginning at 10:00 a.m., Diversity Conference on the Indiana University Campus, Bloomington November 8, 2013 beginning at 8:30 a.m., and tentative Second Chance law forums in Bloomington, Lafayette and Jeffersonville.

Commissioner Melton suggested that new Commissioners and proxies be educated regarding past practices of the Commission and made aware of procedures, budgets and the agenda or strategic plan for the Commission for the coming year.

The consensus of the Commissioners was to use the November meeting solely as a working session concerning the Second Chance law and how to maximize the Commissions involvement with the law and providing helpful information and direction to the Black male constituency regarding the law.

Lastly, it was requested that the budget for the Commission be shared with Commissioners and proxies. Chairman Neal also mentioned that the December meeting would be a social gathering rather than our customary meeting. The date, time and place will be provided soon.

Chairman Mr. Neal entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.