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To: jmg2@humboldt1.com, rgb2@axe.humboldt.edu
From: acshul@humboldt1.com (Adley and Corinne Shulman)
Subject: Minutes - June 13 meeting

Joe and Rick:

I'm sending the following minutes from the last HRC meeting, so that you will have them available when making up the July agenda.

Congratulations and good luck to both of you.

Adley

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES
Meeting of 13 June 2000
Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

The meeting was called to order by John Lyons, Vice Chair, at 7:04 p.m.

A. Attendance and Introductions of New Commissioners and Guests

Present: Botzler, Eastman, Giovannetti, Graebner, Lyons, Miller, Schimps, Shaffer, Shoffner, Shulman, and Taylor. Excused Absent: Keele. Guests: 3 guests. Shulman will seek a written resignation to confirm Naftel's status.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of 9 May 2000 were amended as follows: (1) On page 2 the Orientation Committee listing should delete the designation "(chair)" as Shaffer's previous status was based upon his chairmanship of the Commission itself; (2) Correct the "Housing and Homes" liaison, on page 2, to read "Housing and Homeless;" (3) At the first line of page 3, the vote should read "passed unanimously with one abstention." Botzler noted that the editorial additions in the minutes were added to include relevant information which had not been discussed at the meeting. On motion by moved for approval by Taylor, seconded by Shaffer, the minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

C. Public Comment. None

D. Correspondence and Telephone Calls.

1. A letter from the ACLU regarding a Garberville applicant for a position on the Commission was referred to Christina Allbright, ACLU observer, with the suggestion that the applicant apply directly to the Board of Supervisors.

2. The following calls, retrieved by Keele from the voice mail, were noted in her memorandum accompanying the minutes as mailed, and incorporated into these minutes:

a. A man called. He had spoken with Eastman about an issue with the Fortuna Police Dept. He now has an issue with restraining orders that he wants delayed. He was upset when Keele explained that intervention in court proceedings was not within HRC ability. Keele discussed the matter with Miller and Shulman.

b. A man called about a legal matter filed against an officer of Eureka P.D. Keele sent him materials. She discussed the matter with Miller.

c. A man from Humboldt Hill called. He feels that he is targeted for arrest by the Sheriff's office for looking like a hippie. Keele referred him to Redwood Legal Services and Sheriff Lewis. She discussed the matter with Miller.

d. A woman called about being emotionally abused by her employer, with whom many employees have apparently had bad experiences. Keele referred her to the Labor Board, Employment Development Department, and the owner of the business. There was no discrimination issue.

e. Nezzie Wade has referred Anna Di Sico to HRC, as she is interested in being an intern for HRC during the upcoming school year.

3. Allbright reported that the ACLU wrote to the Board of Supervisors regarding a more formal response to forest issues.

4. Shaffer reported that a gender discrimination complaint at Humboldt State University (HSU) is being processed through the student complaint procedures, a complex and multi-step process.

5. A letter was received from Sheriff Lewis referring a complainant to HRC for assistance. The complaint was about the noise level at Phillipsville. Consensus was that the matter is not within HRC purview.

E. Committee, Liaison, and Case Reports

1. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters (CLEM).

Miller and Shoffner announced the news conference scheduled for June 19, 2000 at 10:00 a.m., at the Classroom of the Correctional Center. (Blue steps to entrance from 5th Street.) Eastman advised that Chief Kent Bradshaw of Fortuna PD will attend. Shoffner presented a copy of a news release which will be made prior to the conference, which Miller read aloud. Shoffner will prepare a packet of information to be distributed to the news media at the conference. Several commissioners indicated their intention to attend and were reminded to wear their HRC identification cards.

Shoffner discussed the results of her inquiry into the use of nunchuks by the Eureka PD. She has reviewed the policies of the department and has a copy which will be discussed at the next CLEM meeting, June 27. She noted that the device, as used by Eureka PD, is not that typical of martial arts users. It is specific for policing, requires special training and certification for an officer to have authority to use it, as prescribed by Police Officer Standards and Training (POST). Not all officers are authorized to use the device. Giovannetti asked whether there is any recent critique of the department's use of nunchuks, and Shoffner said that she would inquire whether there is anything of a public nature available regarding the recent incident of use at WinCo.

Shoffner attended the diversity training orientation with law enforcement personnel and some community leaders. She received a copy of a training guide regarding response by law enforcement to hate crimes. She gave it to Miller, as chair of CLEM. Shoffner also received a copy of The Bureau of Justice Assistance Monograph, "Addressing Hate Crimes," which will be lodged with the HRC archives at the county library. In addition to other information, it lists organizations to contact for additional information. Shoffner also presented, for lodging, a copy of "Preventing Youth Hate Crime," a manual for schools and communities, which is a publication of the United States Dept. of Education. Shoffner recommended that an intern collect and lodge such materials with the library. From time to time, news releases from HRC could make the public aware of the sources of information which have been lodged. Allbright suggested that HRC send annual information to schools in the area regarding available materials.

2. Law Enforcement Chiefs Association of Humboldt (LECAH).

Shoffner reported:

1. According to POST, in Sacramento, College of the Redwoods (CR) should be a simulator site for driving courses. Local law enforcement refresher courses would be offered. Final allocation of funds is pending. 2. Attendees at the recent LECAH meeting, including the D.A., all seem to be on board with the controlled needle exchange program. 3. Dave Douglas is now acting chief of Eureka PD, and will become the chief after 30 days of learning the ropes from Chief Milsap. 4. The first woman was promoted to sergeant in EPD. 5. HSU PD is appointing sergeants due to the retirement of personnel (including Dennis Sousa). 6. LECAH discussed "Coast Guard City" events. 7. Robert Hamilton, an injury retired police officer, has assumed a position in marketing for the Police Academy at CR, and is willing to meet with CLEM. Shoffner suggested that Miller contact Hamilton, who has some input into what is taught at the Police Academy. Shoffner will e-mail the contact information to Miller.

Shaffer recommended suggesting to LECAH that police departments' volunteers for community policing should be involved in reviewing department policies and procedures. Shulman expressed concern that departments would feel over-monitored, since CLEM is already working on such reviews. Miller suggested the possibility of some linking of CLEM and the citizen volunteers. Shoffner questioned whether citizen volunteers are adequately prepared to make comments on policies.

A guest was of the opinion that HRC should conduct outreach into neighborhoods, so that people can communicate their concerns.

3. Outreach and Education Committee.

Giovannetti reported that the committee has revisited and discussed HRC programs on teacher diversity training and the speakers' bureau. The Committee is seeking to develop a calendar for next year.

Giovannetti, Lyons and Shoffner discussed meetings with staff at the local high school where racial hatred activity occurred at a basketball game. Their consensus was that, despite some lip service, it is not clear that the principal and staff are fully appreciative of the seriousness of the incident, or prepared to take corrective action. Graebner reported learning that the school's local attorneys advised staff not to talk to HRC. Discussion included: whether the offended school's officials have lodged any complaint; whether HRC should recommend that they do so, or at least learn of the process for lodging complaints; whether that is relevant to HRC in the face of a hate incident which is clearly within HRC's mandate; and whether HRC should seek Eureka PD investigation of the incident. Botzler moved, seconded by Shoffner, that HRC write to the St. Bernard High Board of Directors, expressing HRC's continued concern over the incident and asking what steps are being taken to make sure that such incidents do not happen again. Unanimously carried. The letter is to contain the background of the incident, and efforts to address it. A copy will be sent to the principal of the school. Giovannetti will draft the letter and seek comments on the text before mailing it to the president of the Board, Dr. John Burke. (Shoffner noted that she had presented materials to the principal for him to study, concerning hate crimes and incidents.)

Proposal on international women's agenda: postponed.

Giovannetti will arrange for Marlon Sherman to be available to discuss jurisdictional concerns surrounding HRC and Indian reservations. Tentative date is June 28 at 7 p.m. Giovannetti will advise commissioners about the specific place.

4. Hate Crime Information Network. Held over

5. Finance. No report.

6. Neutral Observers.

Shulman moved, Shoffner seconded, that the Neutral Observers Committee shall: (1) Investigate and prepare a specific proposal, for action by the Board of Supervisors, to modify and expand the authority of the Humboldt County Human Rights Commission to allow for such activities as neutral observation of demonstrations and others deemed appropriate by the Committee; or (2) If deemed necessary by the Committee, following consultation with Humboldt County personnel and agencies, prepare a proposal for the replacement of the Human Rights Commission with a county commission with such expanded authority; and (3) Report its recommendations to the Human Rights Commission for consideration of future action. Following discussion as to whether the matter should be pursued, the motion was unanimously carried.

7. Community for Common Ground. Postponed.

8. Other Committees and Liaisons. No other reports from committees or liaisons.

9. Contact Reports.

Shulman was called by a representative of a Native American man who has been in isolation in the County Correctional Facility for some three years. In addition to matters related to litigation, an allegation of racially discriminatory treatment has been made. Shulman spoke to the Sheriff, who stated that the man was treated in the same fashion as any prisoner who acts out his hostility, and poses a possible danger to himself and others. Shoffner was also contacted in connection with this case. Sheriff Lewis referred her to the Facility Compliance officer. Shoffner will arrange a meeting and guided tour of booking procedures, for commissioners interested in the Facility practices, and advise them of time and date specifics.

F. Unfinished Business

1. Annual Agenda Plan. Shoffner will check past minutes and extract general areas of HRC interest, to allow for development of plans for interaction with other groups. She will present a draft plan to HRC for comment.

2. Election of Officers. By acclamation and without dissent, the nominees previously announced were elected, as follows: Chair, Joe Giovannetti; Vice Chair, John Lyons; Secretary, Rick Botzler.

3. Voice mail. The voice mail monitoring calendar was circulated by Shulman, to allow commissioner sign-ups for two week periods. It was agreed that anyone who was unable to adhere to their schedule was responsible for contacting someone else to act as back up, or to trade periods. Shulman will send the sign-up calendar to Keele, to complete in final form.

G. New Business

The draft of an annual report to the Board of Supervisors had been circulated with the minutes. In view of the late hour, it was agreed that commissioners should individually send their comments and suggested changes to Keele, for incorporation into the final report.

Additional archival materials were received: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, "Youth in Action" for March, 2000; California Association of Human Relations Organizations newsletter, "The Connection" for Spring, 2000; John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY, "Law Enforcement News" for March 15, 2000; Video Tape, "Automated Victim Notification Services" (VINE).

H. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, 11 July 2000, 7:00 p.m., Conference Room A, County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Adley M. Shulman,
Secretary