

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES
Meeting of 8 August 2000
Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

The meeting was called to order by Joe Giovannetti, Chair, at 7:12 p.m.

A. Attendance and Introduction of New Commissioners and Guests

Present: Giovannetti, Graebner, Schimps, Shaffer, Shoffner, Taylor, and Botzler

Excused Absent: Eastman, Shulman. Unexcused absence: Keele, Lyons, Miller. Guests: 0 guests

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of 11 July 2000 unanimously approved

C. Public Comment.

No public comments were received.

D. Correspondence and Telephone Calls

1. Giovannetti received 8 calls; the general format was to identify the nature of the problem and to whom it was referred. Three calls were referred to other members and five required no further action.

2. Shoffner contacted Senator Chesbro's office regarding the possibility of updating state legislation to broaden the scope of state Human Rights Commissions to include such issues as disability, sexual orientation, and neutral observers, among others. Senator Chesbro is interested and willing to discuss these matters further with the Commission. Shoffner also reported that the editor for the North Coast Journal will evaluate the Human Rights Commission's response to the letter regarding their position on the need for a citizen's review board before replying.

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters (CLEM)

No report

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

Shoffner had no new information to report

3. Outreach and Education Committee

Giovannetti noted that several projects are being proposed.

a. The Commission is considering a web site; possible listings would include the Commission brochure, a list of topics for the speakers, and a generic agenda. Giovannetti will discuss with John Murray the possibility of using the County's web site to include our web page.

b. The Speaker's Bureau will be discussed among the membership next month to identify further topics that should be addressed as well as additional persons in the community to draw on for the Bureau.

c. Shaffer is working with HSU Professor Keri Gelenian and the Family History in Ourselves organization. They are seeking some funding and possible establishment of an institute on this topic.

d. Shaffer will serve as Commission liaison with the Ink People of Eureka.

e. Giovannetti proposed having a Community Forum on the topic of Tribal Sovereignty, with possible presentations both in Hoopa and in Eureka. There was some discussion on whether the emphasis of the forum would be a presentation of information, or to have a community dialogue on this issue. Giovannetti will survey the tribal elders at the 23/24 September gathering of tribal elders at Redwood Acres to determine the primary concerns currently affecting Native American communities.

f. Giovannetti will send the Commission letter out to St. Bernard's High School shortly and report their response. Shoffner pointed out that the high school currently is in search of a new principal.

4. Hate Crime Information Network

No report

5. Finance
No report.

6. Neutral Observers

Botzler and Shoffner reported that Shulman is setting a meeting time with Supervisor John Woolley and County Counsel Tamara Falor when the Supervisors return to session in mid-August to discuss possible ways to incorporate a neutral observer program.

7. Community for Common Ground

Risk Manager Kerr is completing the survey of County departments and preparing a summary.

8. Other Committees and Liaisons

There were no other reports from committees or liaisons.

9. Contact Reports

- a. Shoffner reported on the "Bay Street issue." The Eureka City Planning Department and Eureka Police Department are well aware of the problem and working to prevent further difficulties. No further involvement by the Commission appears necessary.

- b. Giovannetti reported on a federal employee who had been injured on the job. After some discussion, he was inclined to not pursue a formal complaint against his employer. Shoffner recommended referring the employee to the Redwood Coast Regional Center or to the Humboldt Access Project as additional resources.

F. Unfinished Business

1. Shoffner proposed that Saturday, 2 December, be reserved for the annual Commission Retreat. The final date will be set at the next meeting.

2. Voice mail. No action. Postponed to the next meeting.

3. Shaffer moved (Taylor seconded) that Keele's Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors be approved with two corrections: removal of an extra "provided" on the last page and correction of the date to the date submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

G. New Business

No new business was considered.

H. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned 8:55 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, 12 September 2000, 7:00 p.m., Conference Room A, County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Botzler, Secretary