

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES
Meeting of 13 March 2001
Conference Room A,
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

The meeting was called to order by John Lyons, Vice-chair, at 7:03 p.m.

A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Shaffer, Schimps, Lyons, Eastman, Shulman, Miller, Taylor, Jewell, deLeon, and Botzler
Excused Absence: Graebner, Giovannetti, Keele, Shoffner. Unexcused absence: 0 Guests: 5

B. Approval of Minutes

Shulman moved (Schimps seconded) to approve the 13 February minutes as corrected. Passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment.

One guest reported an interest in volunteering for the committee, with a special interest in gay rights and indigenous people. Another guest, Jim Hogue, Empowerment Team Leader of the Humboldt Access Project, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers discussed wheelchair accessibility to various buildings in the County, including the County Courthouse. He discussed the work of the Humboldt Access Project to educate various groups about achieving compliance with the American Disabilities Act. Shulman moved (Taylor seconded) addressing the issue of wheelchair access for evening HRC meetings with County CAO John Murray.

D. Correspondence and Telephone Calls

1. The Humboldt State University (HSU) Diversity Conference was held on 2-3 March 2001. Commissioners represented the work of the Commission at two workshops
2. The HSU Campus Dialogue on Race will be held 3 November 2001, with Maya Angelou serving as keynote speaker.
3. Miller received five phone messages. Some were from the Mattole region with allegations of police misconduct and one included a dispute of a Yurok Tribal member with a neighbor.
4. Botzler received five phone calls which were addressed. He also announced the anti-death penalty program, "For Whom the Bell Tolls" which encourages local churches ringing their chimes on the event of any execution.
5. Eastman received two phone calls and two inquiries on the HRC vacancy
6. Shaffer recommended a review of the HRC voice message. Lyons agreed to do this.
7. Eastman report on information sent by Keele about a Eureka Chamber of Commerce meeting on 16 March to assess accessibility of various buildings in the County. Taylor agreed to attend.
8. Shaffer raised the issue of California Form 700 in which Commissioners must file economic interests that might come in conflict with their roles as Commissioners. The consensus was that most Commissioners would have to fill out little more than the cover sheet.

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Law Enforcement Chiefs Association of Humboldt (LECAH) -- Miller
 - a. The CLEM survey forms were presented, along with the revised HRC liaison list. The new HRC citizen complaint posters and public service announcement were discussed.
2. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters (CLEM) – Miller
 - a. Miller passed out finished versions of the new HRC citizen complaint posters.
3. Outreach and Education Committee - Shaffer
 - a. The next meeting of the committee will be at 6:30 p.m. rather than 6 p.m., on 10 April 2001.
 - b. The HSU Multicultural Diversity Conference was held on 2 & 3 March 2001. Shaffer suggested that next year, only one presentation may be needed. He proposed that a clearer organization be made of the materials presented.

- c. The Youth Educating Against Homophobia Workshop is scheduled for April 10, 8 a.m. to 12 noon, County Office of Education. The Commission discussed possible advertisement and logistic problems of teacher attendance.
 - d. Approximately 17 responses have been received to the Commission's Faculty Needs Survey to Humboldt County schools
 - e. Eastman noted that no calls have been received yet regarding the HRC's Speaker's Bureau.
4. Finance: No report; it was assumed that the treasury still holds \$112.77
 5. Neutral Observers – Shulman
 - a. Senator Chesbro has introduced a bill (SB 381) to authorize an increased scope for State human relations commissions. Shulman has been invited to present at the hearings of the Senate Judiciary Committee (Sen. Martha Escutia, chair), tentatively on 24 April 2001.
 - b. Supervisor Woolley will submit a recommendation for the Board of Supervisors to support SB 381, tentatively for 20 March at 11:30 a.m. It is unlikely that his recommendation would allow a Neutral Observers Program in the absence of SB 381.
 6. Community for Common Ground (CCG) – Botzler
The group met in February and is addressing a possible cooperative effort with the League of California Cities to develop a more widespread use of a Mediation First Policy. The group also is considering pursuing a stronger commitment for this policy from the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors.
 7. Other Committees and Liaisons: There were no other reports from committees or liaisons.

F. Unfinished Business

1. Jewell with work with Shoffner regarding the Multicultural Diversity Award.

G. New Business

1. The possibility of placing an ad in local papers informing the public about HRC willingness to assist members of the public wishing to file citizen complaint forms for law enforcement agencies will be placed on next month's agenda.

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8: 42 p.m.. The next meeting will be Tuesday, 10 April 2001, 7:00 p.m., Conference Room A, County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Botzler, Secretary