

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES
Meeting of 10 April 2001
Conference Room A,
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

The meeting was called to order by Joe Giovannetti, Chair, at 7:09 p.m.

A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Shaffer, Giovannetti, Keele, Schimps, Shulman, Miller, Taylor, Jewell, deLeon, and Botzler
Excused Absence: Graebner, Lyons, Eastman,, Shoffner. Unexcused absence: 0 Guests: 2

B. Approval of Minutes

Shulman moved (Schimps seconded) to approve the 13 March minutes as written. Passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment.

Jim Hogue, Empowerment Team Leader of the Humboldt Access Project, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers discussed inserting terminology in the Human rights Commission's mission statement to describe people with disabilities. In light of recent Board of Supervisor's action limiting Commission involvement in community rights issues, Mr. Hogue was encouraged to present his case directly to the Board.

A second guest related claims of being falsely accused by another citizen of several crimes. He was placed in contact with the appropriate legal resources.

D. Correspondence and Telephone Calls

1. Schimps received nine phone messages, including three related to a case of apparent false arrest, two related to complaints about one law enforcement department, one related to a request for assistance in caring for a disabled person, and several others referred to various commissioners or community resources

2. Botzler received a letter from the Board of Supervisors affirming their opposition to SB 381, enlarging the scope of human rights activities in the state of California.

3. Shaffer received a note from Humboldt Bank wishing to close the Commission account from lack of activity.

4. Keele received a letter from a person complaining about the activities of one of the local law enforcement agencies.

5. Taylor received information on the Annual Training Conference of the California Association of Equal Rights Professionals, Monterey, California, 29 May to 1 June, 2001.

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters (CLEM) – Miller The posters on the Commissions willingness to assist on Citizen Complaint Forms are being distributed throughout the community.
 - a. DeLeon met with Officer Downey of the California Highway Patrol. He also is working to develop one or two teams of citizen observers groups.
 - b. Jewell met with Sgt. Lovie of the County Correctional facility and discussed inmate prescription drugs. Pertinent laws and regulations on this issue are listed on Title 15, Division 2, CCR. A brochure on inmate rights is being prepared by the County Correctional facility.

2. Law Enforcement Chiefs Association of Humboldt (LECAH) – No report

3. Outreach and Education Committee - Shaffer

- a. The Youth Educating Against Homophobia Workshop was presented April 10, 8 a.m. to 12 noon, County Office of Education. The program was well done. Five commissioners and five school teachers and other personnel attended. Twelve persons made presentations.
- b. A request for assistance from Eureka Alternative Schools is expected soon
- c. DeLeon mentioned that the Civil Liberties Monitoring Project (CLMP) could provide a spot on KMUD for the Commission to use.

4. Finance – Keele. The treasury still holds \$112.77
5. Neutral Observers – Shulman
 - a. The Board of Supervisors supported a motion to not support SB 381; this motion passed. Chesbro will continue to proceed with the bill owing to considerable support from several sources. Chesbro also is hopeful of generating support for the bill from the Humboldt County Supervisors, if possible. Shoffner called an emergency meeting (held 27 March, prior to the CLEM meeting) to discuss the vote; no action was taken at the meeting.
 - b. Keele and Miller noted that there is a considerable amount of logging protests in southern Humboldt County.
6. Community for Common Ground (CCG) – Botzler. No report
7. Other Committees and Liaisons: There were no other reports from committees or liaisons.

F. Unfinished Business

1. Jewell met with Sgt. Lovie of the County Correctional facility to arrange for a jail tour. A quick poll was taken of Commissioners interested and available times; Wednesday, April 25, 3 p.m. was proposed as one possible time.

G. New Business

1. Taylor has attended the Eureka Chamber of Commerce meetings addressing handicapped access issues. He also contacted Supervisor Kirk and Risk Manager Kim Kerr to address access to the County Courthouse for evening meetings. However, this evening, elevators were still locked and there were no directive signs for handicapped parking or to clarify routes of access for people in wheelchairs.
2. The costs of placing newspaper ads of the HRC poster informing the public of the availability of Commission assistance in filing citizen complaints with local law enforcement agencies were found to be quite high. Some consideration also was made of using space reserved for public service announcements.
3. Officer elections will be held in June, a slate of officers needs to be presented at the May meeting.

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8: 53 p.m.. The next meeting will be Tuesday, 8 May 2001, 7:00 p.m., Conference Room A, County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Botzler, Secretary