

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES
Meeting of 8 May 2001
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 Introduction of Guests

Present: Lyons, Shaffer, Schimps, Shulman, Miller, Taylor, Jewell, and Botzler

Excused Absence: Graebner, Keele, de Leon, Shoffner. Unexcused absence: Giovannetti, Eastman

Guests: 3

B. Approval of Minutes

Shulman moved (Schimps seconded) to approve the 10 April minutes as written. Passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment.

Jim Hogue, Humboldt Access Project, expressed appreciation to Commissioner Taylor for helping ensure that the Courthouse was wheel-chair accessible for evening meetings. It was noted by another visitor, County CAO John Murray, that the ramp to the Courthouse on 5th Street was ADA-compliant for wheelchairs and that there were plans for 4 handicapped parking spots in the parking lot at the north end of the courthouse after it was paved.

A third guest related claims of being falsely accused by a member of a local police department, of having filed a complaint in February, and still not having received a response. The guest reported recently again being falsely accused and harassed by an officer from the same department.

D. Correspondence and Telephone Calls

1. Schimps received three phone messages, including one related to tenants' rights, one reporting a problem with local law enforcement that was referred to the County Grand Jury, and one from a Mattole protester requesting the presence of Neutral Observers.

2. Shulman reported calls regarding a tenant eviction, a person complaining about a local law enforcement agency, a request from the County CAO for March and April 2001 minutes and agendas of the Commission, and a complaint against a bailiff in a courtroom.

3. Miller received note from Keele that the Hate Crimes and Information was meeting 10 May 2001. The telephone log was passed around for sign-ups.

4. Botzler provided a copy of the March and April minutes and agenda to the County CAO's office. He also received notice that the item for appointment of a representative to the Human Rights Commission of the 4th Supervisorial District was withdrawn from the 10 April Board of Supervisor's agenda.

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters - Miller

The last meeting was cancelled

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

3. Outreach and Education Committee - Shaffer

a. A Public Service Announcement (PSA) informing the community of the Speaker's Bureau were completed by Shaffer and will be sent out.

b. Miller noted that he will send appropriate information for sending out a PSA on the CLEM project of providing assistance to citizens wishing to file complaints with a law enforcement agency

c. DeLeon has agreed to coordinate 5-minute monthly presentations on the work of the Commission on radio station KMUD. He will be requested to provide more detail on the format of the program, including the extent of questions from the narrator or public.

4. Finance – The treasury presumably still holds \$112.77

5. Neutral Observers – Shulman
On invitation of Senator Chesbro's office, Shulman testified in support of SB 381 (Chesbro) at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings in Sacramento in April. Shulman emphasized that his comments were presented as an interested citizen and not as a representative of the County. He noted several additional speakers in favor and one in opposition of the bill. The bill passed 21-13 in the Senate and currently is pending in the Assembly.
6. Community for Common Ground (CCG) – Botzler.
The Committee is organizing the data from several dozen cities in response to an inquiry by Shoffner to the League of California Cities on the extent to which they use mediation as a tool for addressing conflict.
7. Other Committees and Liaisons: There were no other reports from other committees or liaisons.

F. Unfinished Business

1. Jewell announced that a jail tour for interested Commissioners will occur 10 May with Sgt. Lovie of the County Correctional facility.
2. A new narrative for the voice mail system proposed by Lyons was revised by the Commission. The Commission chair will serve as the telephone voice mail supervisor.

G. New Business

1. Taylor reported that the wheelchair access issue for evening meetings at the Courthouse appears to be resolved.
2. Officer elections will be held in June. Nominees are:

Chair:	Larry Miller (still pending)
Vice-chair	John Lyons
Secretary:	Rick Botzler

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8: 48 p.m.. The next meeting will be Tuesday, 12 June 2001, 7:00 p.m., Conference Room A, County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Botzler, Secretary