

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES
Meeting of 12 June 2001
Conference Room A,
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

The meeting was called to order by John Lyons, Vice-chair, at 7:07 p.m.

A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Lyons, Shaffer, Eastman, Schimps, de Leon, Keele, Shulman, Miller, Taylor, Jewell, and Botzler

Excused Absence: Graebner, Shoffner. Unexcused absence: Giovannetti,

Guests: 1

B. Approval of Minutes

Shaffer moved (Shulman seconded) to approve the 8 May minutes as written. Passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment.

Jim Hogue, Humboldt Access Project, expressed appreciation to the Commission for helping ensure that the Courthouse was wheel-chair accessible for evening meetings. He also noted that the Northwest Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities is inviting Commission members to its July meeting to discuss the inclusion of people with disabilities in the Commission's mission statement.

Following some discussions of wheel-chair access, Shulman moved (Shaffer seconded) that the Commission appoint a delegate to speak with County representatives concerning matters of access to County buildings for the disabled, and having the delegate report back. Passed by majority vote. Miller agreed to serve as delegate.

D. Correspondence and Telephone Calls

1. Shaffer received two calls on the answering machine. One was referred to Shulman for action and one was an inquiry about the Commission's Speaker's Bureau.

2. Shulman reported a call from an Arcata resident who had provided overnight shelter for 6 juvenile demonstrators. The juveniles had reported feeling very threatened by loggers and then being treated harshly by law enforcement officials (agency not clearly identified). Shulman recommended that the juveniles fill out a citizen's complaint form to the Sheriff's Department.

3. a. Botzler received two phone messages from the answering machine. One was a call from the Governor's office seeking some information about the Commission's involvement with Sen. Chesbro's Senate Bill 381; this was referred to Shulman. A second call involved a question about tenant-landlord relations. Although several attempts were made, no direct voice contact was made with this caller.

b. Botzler also announced the formation of a chapter of the group, For Whom the Bells Toll, in McKinleyville. The group is opposed to capital punishment and seeks to have churches ring their church bells on days that a prisoner is executed.

c. Eastman volunteered to serve as Secretary during Botzler's absence for the July 2001 meeting.

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters - Miller

There will be an assessment and possible reorganization of CLEM and reassigning of liaison responsibilities at the next CLEM meeting

2. Law Enforcement Chiefs Association of Humboldt (LECAH) – No report. It was suggested to reconsider the work and function of this committee next month

3. Outreach and Education Committee - Shaffer

a. Anna DeCicco presented a summary of the Faculty Needs Assessment to the Commission; 19 of 65 principals responded. A copy of the survey results was sent to the Humboldt County

Office of Education and HCOE will be contacted about distributing the results to other principals of the area.

- b. Shaffer spoke with Mr. Adams, Alternative School Principal, and a panel of homophobia was presented at one of the Alternative School sites.
 - c. A Public Service Announcement (PSA) informing the community of the Speaker's Bureau was completed by Shaffer and sent out to local media by Botzler.
4. Finance – The treasury still holds \$112.77
 5. Taylor reported that the Eureka Chamber of Commerce has compiled a package of disability guidelines, disability laws, and the implementation. Plans are being developed for a Disability Awareness Week in the fall.
 6. Neutral Observers – Shulman
J. Avila, Senator Chesbro's representative in Sacramento, reported that SB 381 was to be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on 12 June. Shulman later learned that the hearing was postponed to 19 June. The Commission gave a heartfelt appreciation to Shulman for all of his contributions to the Commission during his term of office and best wishes as he partakes of new directions.
 7. Community for Common Ground (CCG) – Botzler.
The Committee is continuing to work on the data from California cities on the extent to which they use mediation as a tool for addressing conflict.
 8. Other Committees and Liaisons:
 - a. The tour of the Humboldt County Correctional Facility was judged to be very successful by the participants.
 - b. Miller will take responsibility for developing the Commission's annual report to the Board of Supervisors. Lyons, Keele, and Shaffer will provide assistance.

F. Unfinished Business

1. The meeting date will remain on the 2nd Tuesday of each month as there was a conflict with the 2nd Wednesday for another commissioner. The meeting time will be changed to 6 p.m. for the future.
2. De Leon proposed that the KMUD 5-minute spots emphasize items from the most recent meeting minutes of the Commission. A discussion ensued on how to best ensure the privacy of citizens who have called or registered complaints. De Leon reported there also would be occasional opportunities for the Commission to be involved with full hour meetings to discuss issues that arise.

G. New Business

1. Officer elections were held and the following positions filled:

Chair:	Larry Miller
Vice-chair	John Lyons
Secretary:	Rick Botzler

 Keele will serve as unofficial treasurer for our stable funds.

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, 10 July 2001, 6:00 p.m. (note time change), Conference Room A, County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Botzler, Secretary