

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

Meeting of 10 July 2001

Conference Room A,

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

Chair Larry Miller called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Shaffer, Eastman, Schimps, de Leon, Keele, Miller, Jewell, Graebner, Lyons

Excused absence: Taylor, Botzler

Unexcused absence: Shoffner

Guests: 3

B. Approval of Minutes

Jewell moved and Eastman seconded approval of the minutes with one changes to section 3b, which should read, "Shaffer spoke with Mr. Adams."

C. Public Comment

A concern about an inmate in the Humboldt County Correctional Facility was expressed, and referred to Tisa Jewell for follow-up.

D. Correspondence and Telephone Calls

1. Lyons received three calls on the answering machine. One was a request for a brochure (handled), one relating to actions taken by the police (advised of complaint process) and one complaint about the court system. Repeated efforts to contact this individual were unsuccessful.
2. Schimps received numerous calls on the answering machine. They included a request for comment from the Governor's Office on Research (HRC unable to comment), a complaint about a county official (referred to the Board of Supervisors or Grand Jury – Schimps to respond by mail), and follow-up comments related to actions taken by police cited in #1 above (caller will follow-up with complaint to agency). Also received: a request for information on HRC (one of evening's guests), 3 calls from caller in #1 relating to court, request from the DAR program chair requesting a speaker (see follow up below) problem with dog impound (unable to contact), call from Serenity Inn (unable to locate on call back) and a problem with collection of back child support (referred to Redwood Legal).
3. de Leon received a call about health screening (believed to be a wrong number).
4. Shaffer: as a follow up, Jack spoke with the curriculum coordinator for the county to offer the assistance of the HRC. Jack also contacted Mr. Eagles at the County Schools to request that he circulate Anna's survey results. Eagles agreed.
5. Follow-up with DAR: they are looking for a speaker to address one of two topics. The topic will be either Environmental Ethics or Citizen Concerns about Law Enforcement. Miller volunteered to handle.
6. Graebner: received a contact regarding lack of response. Complainant has heard from the agency involved.
7. Keele received a letter from the Grand Jury thanking us for speaking with the HCCF committee.

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters
Miller will be the primary contact for EPD, with Graebner as an alternate. With little activity in outlying areas, we will focus on the Sheriff and EPD. Jewell will be liaison to HCCF and the Sheriff's Department, Eastman, Rio Dell and Fortuna, de Leon, Southern Humboldt Sheriff and CHP. Jewell will chair, and the CLEM will be re-incorporated into the HRC monthly meeting effective 8/1/01.
2. Secretary to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors to advise of three openings on HRC (Shulman, Giovannetti and Shoffner).
3. There was discussion on the need for HRC representatives to attend Law Enforcement Chiefs Association of Humboldt (LECAH) on a regular basis. Miller will advise Foster of LECAH that we won't routinely attend. This item is to be deleted from the agenda.
4. Outreach and Education: to be re-incorporated into the regular monthly Agenda. The deadline for getting information into the County schools catalog is early November (for Winter catalog) if we wish to include any programs. It was also suggested that we need to brainstorm ideas on Human Rights Awareness Month (for August agenda).
5. Finance – the balance remains \$112.77
6. Lindsay McWilliams reported that the ramp located outside the courthouse is ADA compliant. Jim Hogue was misinformed. Schimps will contact Hogue to advise.

7. Neutral Observers: Fred Piercily called to advise that SB381 had another hearing, has passed both houses and has gone to the Governor's office for signature. This bill would expand the definition of areas in which HRCs could become involved. Miller noted that those interested in participating in non-HRC involvement in a N.O. program for forest or other situations, should any requests come in, should contact him (response from Miller, Graebner, de Leon, Schimps and Jewell).
8. Community for Common Ground (CCG) – No report

F. Unfinished Business

1. Reorganization of CLEM – handled as part of item 1 above.
2. Reorganization of LECAH committee – handled as part of item 3 ABOVE.
3. Member Participation Agreement considered: Miller to review proposed agreement. It was suggested that materials be prepared to explain expectation and rules and regulations to prospective members. Shaffer will prepare a statement to be included in the annual report, requesting all possible haste in appointing new HRC commissioners. To be agendized for the August meeting.
4. Reconstructing the telephone voice message – Lyon: Keele suggests that we need to advise callers that information received is not confidential. Shaffer suggests that a written version of the message be circulated to members for review and that this item be placed on the agenda for the August meeting. The written version will be sent with the minutes. Keele and Eastman will research the Brown Act to clarify what may or may not be considered confidential.

G New Business: none

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 14 2001, 6:00 p.m. (note time change), Conference Room A, County Courthouse, Eureka

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Eastman for Rick Botzler, Secretary