

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

Meeting of 14 August 2001

Conference Room A,

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

Chair Larry Miller called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

### **A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests**

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

Excused absence: Taylor, Lyons

Unexcused absence: Shoffner

Guests: 1

### **B. Approval of Minutes**

Schimps moved (Graebner seconded) approval of the 10 July minutes. Jewell noted another change to section D.3.b. of the 12 June minutes, which should read, "Shaffer spoke with Mr. Adams, Alternative School Principal, and a panel on homophobia was presented at one of the Alternative School sites." Later, Botzler recommended omitting Shoffner's name from item E.2 of the 10 July minutes. All changes were approved.

### **C. Public Comment**

One guest had a strong complaint about two judges treating him with a lack of due process and respect. He also claimed to have been injured by a push into a table by a bailiff. It was recommended that he contact the California Judicial Council. He had filed a complaint with the Sheriff's office but had never received a copy of the complaint. Jewell agreed to look further into the Sheriff's department complaint and report back to the guest.

### **D. Correspondence and Telephone Calls**

1. De Leon received three calls on the answering machine. One caller was referred to the Sheriff Department liaison. Another caller was referred to Legal Services of Northern California. A third call regarding an overzealous property manager also was referred to Legal Services of Northern California.
2. Jewell received three calls on the answering machine. One was from the guest who spoke during the public comment (see item C., above) and she is following up on that. One was in regard to facilitating a marriage of two inmates in the County Correctional Facility, the wedding will occur. A third was in regard to a Hoopa resident who had some property confiscated by the tribal police and who wanted the property returned.
3. Botzler received a letter copied to the Commission by a County Parks supervisor who responded to a local resident's complaint of having been falsely accused of not paying camping fees at a county facility.
4. Keele received two calls. One was a woman who had some housing authority concerns. A second was from a woman who had already spoken with de Leon.

### **E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports**

1. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters (Miller)  
Miller, Lyons, and Graebner met with the new Eureka Police Department Chief, Dave Douglas.
2. Miller sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors to advise them of four openings on HRC (Shulman, Giovannetti, Shoffner, along with one older vacancy).
3. Outreach and Education (Shaffer). No report
4. Finance – the balance remains \$112.77
5. Community for Common Ground (Botzler).

Two goals of the group have recently been clarified. One is to facilitate the integration of mediation as an active part of problem solving where it directly involves county employees. Secondly, the group wishes to have the County Supervisors take a more proactive role in supporting and initiating solutions to the environmental conflicts occurring in the County

6. For Whom the Bells Toll (Botzler)

This is a national initiative opposed to capital punishment that calls on religious organizations throughout the country to toll their bells whenever there is an execution. More information can be found at the website: [www.curenational.org/~bells/origin.html](http://www.curenational.org/~bells/origin.html). A local chapter is starting at McKinleyville's Grace Good Shepherd Church.

### **F. Unfinished Business**

1. Keele moved (de Leon seconded) that the Commissioner Job Description/Participation Agreement be accepted. Passed unanimously. Jewell moved that the Job Description be sent out to anyone applying for a position on the Commission. Passed unanimously

2. Schimps moved (Eastman seconded) to accept the revised voice message for the Commission answering machine. Passed unanimously

**G. New Business**

1. Four Commissioners have terms that are expiring or have expired. Each will contact and inform the Board of Supervisors that they are available for reappointment.
2. The Secretary will provide a revised HRC roster
3. Miller expects to have a draft of the HRC Commission Annual Report for the September meeting.

**H. Adjourn**

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11 September 2001, 6:00 p.m., Conference Room A, County Courthouse, Eureka

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Botzler, Secretary