

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

Meeting of 9 October 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, Keele, Miller, Jewell, Graebner, Lyons, Botzler

Excused absence: Eastman                      Unexcused absence: None                      Guests: 1

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

Keele moved (Lyons seconded) approval of the 14 August minutes as written. Passed

### **C. Public Comment**

Later in the meeting, a guest commented on disabled access to the Courthouse; those comments are included in that portion of the minutes.

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

1. Miller reported on 4 messages. One was on library hours. A second was an invitation by a state department to have a Commissioner attend a meeting; this message was received too late for participation. One call was a complaint of an order of 100 t-shirts that depicted a white person holding a gun to an Arab child; Miller followed up and it was reported that an order had been placed but was rejected by the store manager. There also was a request by a Zoe Barnum student for literature on the Commission that was to be used for a meeting.
2. De Leon reported 4 calls. One caller concerned about a tenant being evicted was referred to Redwood Legal Services. One caller concerned about a payee service withholding funds also was referred to Redwood Legal Services. A caller concerned about family visiting rights not being honored also was referred to Redwood Legal Services. A law enforcement officer may request assistance from the Commission if he loses his job.
3. Botzler reported a letter received from John Murray, County Administrative Officer, in which he claimed that the Court House access on 5<sup>th</sup> Street is not a ramp because it has a slope of 4.8%, and that this had been clarified with Mr. Hogue. Mr. Murray also invited the Commission to use space provided by the County if we wish to develop a web page. Botzler also left word with M. Paik-Nicely, HSU Multicultural Center, that the Commission would be happy to participate in HSU's Diversity Conference next March. Finally, Botzler briefly described an apparent hate-incident that had occurred at Hoopa High School involving white and Indian students.
4. Schimps noted that Mr. Hogue still has some concerns about the 5<sup>th</sup> Street access ramp.
5. Shaffer spoke with a member of the local Islamic community and noted the availability of a vacancy on the Commission.
6. Former Commissioner Shulman invited a local attorney to apply for one of the Commission vacancies.
7. Keele noted the availability of mediation training through the Institute for the Study of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ISADR). It was also suggested that the Commission telephone number be sent out to the media monthly with the request that it be published or listed as a public service announcement.

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

1. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters (Jewell)  
No specific new information to report
2. Outreach and Education Matters (Shaffer).
  - a. Shaffer has had some difficulty contacting Dave Orphal for scheduling the next workshop on homophobia.
  - b. Shaffer is encouraging the County Office of Education to utilize the "Facing History in Ourselves" curriculum. K. Gelenian, HSU Education professor, is using the curriculum at an HSU education summit meeting this year.
  - c. Shaffer reminded the Commission that the form of the Commission's participation at the HSU Diversity Conference will need to be developed.
  - d. Shaffer noted again that the Professional Development catalogue of the County Office of Education has very little related to diversity issues. Apparently most funds are directed toward state-mandated programs. Shaffer would like to have each school and district have a mechanism to assess needs for intergroup relations and multicultural education, and have

some program to meet those needs. Considerable discussion followed on how to best proceed. It was agreed that Taylor will contact G. Eagles of the County Office expressing the Commission concerns about the lack of professional opportunities in the catalogue related to diversity education for county teachers, and to ascertain how the County Office determines the diversity needs of their students and how they decide what training their teachers should receive.

3. Finance (Keele) – After opening the envelope, the HRC was surprised to find that the balance remains at \$112.77
4. Community for Common Ground (Botzler).  
The group has a meeting tomorrow.

#### **F. Unfinished Business**

1. Mr. Hogue responded to the Murray letter (item D.3, above). Mr. Hogue had spoken with the Disability Business Technical Advisory Committee, an attorney's group providing free statewide service regarding California's Title 24 and American Disability Act interpretations. Their interpretation was that the 5<sup>th</sup> Street access did not meet California Title 24 requirements. However, as long as the 4<sup>th</sup> Street entrance had a disabled person access, that was all that was needed. In that case, however, Mr. Hogue had considerable concern that the handicapped parking spaces were located at the foot of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street ramp which made the ramp appear as the disabled person access (when it did not meet the legal requirements for handicapped access) rather than at the more appropriate 4<sup>th</sup> Street access. Further, the 4<sup>th</sup> Street entrance was not identified clearly as the disabled person entrance. It was moved (Jewell) and seconded (de Leon) that when Mr. Hogue and members of the disabled community set a date to raise their concerns on disabled person parking and disabled person access to the County Courthouse before the Board of Supervisors, that members of the Commission also attend to express their support for these concerns.
2. Shaffer was unable to make contact with Dave Orphal regarding the proposed workshop.
3. It was recommended that the Commission statement following the September 11 terrorist attack be sent out to all media again.
4. Shaffer has had no contact with the State Office regarding inclusion of human rights issues in teacher training, but has had contact with the County, and with Senator Chesbro's office.
5. The Commissions annual report will be sent to the Supervisors.

#### **G. New Business**

1. Plans for Human Rights Month (December) will be discussed at the next meeting.
2. The Commission will discuss their role at HSU's Diversity Conference on 1, 2 March 2002, at the next meeting.
3. The Boy Scout position on homosexuality will be addressed next meeting
4. The speaker's bureau will be discussed at the next meeting
5. The development of a web page with the assistance of an intern will be addressed
6. The policy on dropping a commissioner after 3 unexcused absences will be addressed.

#### **H. Adjourn**

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 13 November 2001, 6:00 p.m., Conference Room A, County Courthouse, Eureka

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Botzler, Secretary