

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

Meeting of 11 June 2002

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: Miller, Sloane, Jewell, Keele, Shaffer, Eastman, Aziz, Graebner, Botzler

Excused absence: Lyons, Schimps, deLeon Resignation: Taylor Guests: 2

B. Approval of Minutes

Keele moved (Eastman seconded) that the 14 May 2002 minutes be accepted with the addition of deLeon's presence at the May meeting, and two minor typographical corrections. Passed unanimously

C. Public Comment

One guest commented his impression that landlords in the local area often charge for services such as cleaning, but then do not provide them. One guest from a local television network inquired about local human rights issues.

D. Correspondence, Contact Reports, and Telephone Calls

1. Keele reported a thank-you note from the HSU human rights campaign program for the Commissions participation. She also received an invitation to attend a Building Access by Design for an Aging Community workshop of 19 June. Keele also had a call from a person complaining about treatment by the Rio Dell Police Department. She also related the case of a man who lost his social security benefits because of an outstanding warrant from another state; he had not been able to receive any assistance from local agencies to clear up the matter. Keele also informed HSU's Career Center about the Commission interest in having another intern assigned.
2. Shaffer received a call from a Ghana citizen inquiring on whether there were any other Ghana citizens in the area. Shaffer and Schimps attended the May American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) meeting in Arcata. The ACLU was interested in Commission progress on the Neutral Observers program and the Citizen Law Enforcement Review Board. Shaffer also contacted the State Department of Fair Employment & Housing, and received brochures on housing complaints and discrimination in housing and employment.
3. Miller noted that several Commissioners had attended the recent NAACP Charles Washington Soul Food Dinner in Eureka.

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters (Jewell)
No new information
2. Outreach and Education Matters (Shaffer).
 - a. Shaffer attended the Gay Pride Parade this past week and noted the participation of the Youth Educating Against Homophobia group.
3. Finance. Keele did not receive a bank statement, but assumes our current bank balance is \$112.77.
4. Follow-up on previous case reports
 - a. Miller followed up on a woman who had placed a call for Commission assistance from St. Joseph Hospital by contacting hospital administrators to ask that they convey the interest of the Commission in talking further with her if she had interest in doing so. Thus far there has been no response.
5. Other reports
No other reports.

F. Unfinished Business

1. Miller reported that there was no new information from the Board of Supervisors regarding the Neutral Observers program, including a response from the County Counsel on the impact of SB 381 on Commission activities. There also was no response on the letter expressing the Commission position on the death penalty in California.
2. Inquiries have been sent out in an effort to recruit a new intern. Keele contacted the HSU Career Center, Shaffer contacted Prof. Gregg Gold (HSU Psychology Department), and Botzler contacted Prof. Betsy Watson (HSU Sociology Department).

3. Eastman discussed the proposed Commission web page further with Greg Gehr. Possible items for the page included a picture of the Commission, the Visitor Orientation Information sheet, a History and Mission Section, the annual report, a specific e-mail address to the Commission that might supplement the voice mail system, and links to other human rights-related resources. Following some discussion the suggestion was made to not have the Commission faces grace the web page, but to further discuss developing a specific Commission e-mail address for public access.
4. There no new information available on local exclusions of boys or leaders from participation in local activities of Boy Scout-related programs due to sexual orientation.

G. New Business

1. Shaffer moved (Keele seconded) that Jewell be elected to serve as Vice-chair and Eastman be elected to serve as Secretary for the 2002-2003 officers. Passed unanimously. Election of a new chair is scheduled for next month.

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9 July 2002, 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Botzler, Secretary