

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

Meeting of 9 July 2001

Conference Room A,

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

Chair Larry Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Miller, Botzler, Eastman, Graebner, Sloan, Schimps, Jewell, Lochtie, Keele, Aziz, Shaffer, Lyons

Absent: DeLeon

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June meeting were approved as submitted.

C. Election of Officers (moved forward on agenda)

Keele suggested Eastman resign as Secretary and fill the position of Chair. Jewell nominated Maura Eastman, Sloan seconded. Eastman resigned as Secretary, effective at the close of the meeting. Motion carried. Miller called for volunteers to serve as Secretary. Discussion ensued. Botzler moved, Jewell seconded, that Keele serve as Secretary through the December meeting, with Aziz serving as Secretary from January through June. Motion carried.

D. Public Comment

One guest was extremely agitated with the County's failure to address issues that he has raised. Miller agreed to try and follow up with the individual and with the County.

Three of our guests presented information on the persecution of practitioners of the Chinese art of Falun Gong. They stated that many people are being persecuted for speaking out against the Chinese Government and their campaign to silence practitioners. Petitions presented the County Supervisors have not brought a response, but they will continue to address groups. Information is also available at www.faluninfo.net

Another speaker gave information about the Rural Counties Mediation Project. To be held at the Arcata Methodist Church, this 32-hour training leads to a certificate in mediation. This will be held July 23rd through 26th.

Our final speaker described a grievance procedure she is going through, and was referred to Redwood Legal Action and other agencies. Following discussion, Shaffer and Lyons suggested that we contact the new HSU President to introduce the Commission, bring up the personnel issues, and advocate for a close look at the grievance process. (To be placed on the agenda for the August meeting).

E. Correspondence, Contact Reports and Telephone Calls

1. Schimps received ten calls: several about the June meeting, a couple of repeats and a problem with the Rio Dell PD, which was brought to the Chief. There was also a call from a man losing disability because of a pre-existing warrant, and an eviction action involving a disabled person.
2. Miller received 5 calls. One was a personnel issue, one an issue of unfair treatment, a complaint about Blue Lake PD, (which was resolved) and a call back from chief Pat Medina (Rio Dell PD) as a follow-up to the above noted call and a follow up to a call previously handled – and referred to Humboldt Access Project.
3. Miller and Lyons gave an update on housing conditions. 2 trailer parks are being closed. A discussion of housing issues ensued. Schimps suggested that HRC should alert the

Board of Supervisors to these problems and the need to provide adequate housing. (For August agenda: Do we want a committee to undertake this and advise Wes Chesbro.)

4. Sloan received 5 calls: one dealing with the Falun Gong issue, a woman regarding plumbing problems and health issues, a call from Bonnie Neely, a call dealing with employment practices (no response to return call) and a call regarding RMH and a child being held (resolved).

NOTE: The call from Bonnie Neely was in regard to the Neutral Observers program. Bonnie would like to meet with commission members. Miller suggested attendees be: Miller, Eastman, Jewell, Botzler, Schimps and Graebner and the Supervisor(s). Larry will coordinate the meeting.

5. Eastman relayed possible complaint against the SO: Miller to contact individual. .
6. A letter was received from former intern Michelle Blume. Her address is available for those interested in writing.

F. Committees, Liaisons and Case Reports

1. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters (Jewell). No new information
2. Outreach and Education (Shaffer). No report; Jack requests input on possible outreach efforts.
3. Finance (Keele). An astounding \$112.77 remains in the bank account.
4. No response yet to the death penalty memo. Lyons suggests a memo with copies of the articles on prohibition of the death penalty. (Agendize for August). Botzler also interested in follow-up. Miller will conduct an informal canvass.
5. No report on new intern. (Agendize monthly for update)
6. Web page – no report. (Agendize for August meeting)
7. Boy Scouts of America – no action. Agendize for August meeting

G. New Business

1. Should a Police Review Board be in place? (from the Arcata Eye). Schimps suggests the HRC evaluate the complaint process and advise the Board. (Agendize for August)

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 13 August 2002, 6:00 PM in Conference Room A of the County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted

Maura Eastman, Secretary